

HOUSE BILL NO. 1656

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules

on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Price)

A BILL to direct the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the effects of gun violence on communities across the Commonwealth; report.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

1. § 1. That the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall study the social, physical, emotional, and economic effects of gun violence on communities across the Commonwealth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics, 9,025 Virginians died by firearm between 2008 and 2017, and the firearm homicide rate in Virginia increased by 28 percent in that time. In addition to fatal shootings, gun violence includes other firearm-involved crimes and incidents in which a victim may suffer from non-fatal gunshot wounds, may be shot at but not wounded, or may be threatened with a brandished firearm that is not fired. Not only does gun violence result in physical harm, it can also lead to long-term adverse effects on the overall health and well-being of individuals, as well as lasting social and economic impacts on communities. In order to reduce gun violence and its enduring consequences, it is important to understand the extent of such social, physical, emotional, and economic effects on communities in the Commonwealth.

In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall examine the impact of gun violence on (i) the overall physical health of individuals living in affected communities, (ii) the mental and emotional health of individuals living in affected communities, and (iii) the social and economic health of communities impacted by gun violence and shall consider and propose policy recommendations to address gun violence and its effects.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission for this study, upon request.

27           The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings for the first year  
28 by November 30, 2023, and for the second year by November 30, 2024, and the director shall submit to  
29 the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and  
30 recommendations no later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for each  
31 year. Each executive summary shall state whether the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission  
32 intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations  
33 for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries and reports shall be submitted  
34 as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of  
35 legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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