

Introduced by Senator DeSaulnier

February 27, 2009

An act relating to gun safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 746, as introduced, DeSaulnier. Gun Safety Board.

Existing law establishes various programs to improve public health.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would create, within the State Department of Public Health, the Gun Safety Board, and charge it with various duties in regard to reducing gun violence. The bill would state findings and declarations of the Legislature pertaining to these matters.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
3 (a) Every day in the United States, eight children and teenagers
4 are killed and more than 47 are injured by firearms.
5 (b) In 2005, 595 California children and youths under 21 years
6 of age were killed with firearms and 1,554 California children and
7 youths under 21 years of age were hospitalized with nonfatal
8 firearms injuries.
9 (c) One-third of children in the United States live in homes with
10 firearms, and almost half of these homes keep the gun unlocked.
11 (d) Sixty-eight percent of the attackers in school shootings
12 obtained the firearm from their own home or that of a relative.

1 (e) The medical costs of gun violence place a terrible burden
2 on health services, governments, and taxpayers.

3 (f) In 1995 the medical cost of gun violence nationwide was
4 four billion dollars (\$4,000,000,000), and the public paid for about
5 85 percent of that amount.

6 (g) Including indirect costs, gun violence costs the United States
7 over one hundred billion dollars (\$100,000,000,000) annually.

8 (h) In 2003, the medical cost of nonfatal, hospital admitted,
9 firearm injuries in California was almost two hundred million
10 dollars (\$200,000,000).

11 SEC. 2. (a) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact
12 legislation that would create, within the State Department of Public
13 Health, a Gun Safety Board.

14 (2) The purpose of the board would be to oversee and implement
15 a strategy to reduce the incidents of gun violence and accidental
16 shootings, including the number of homicides, injuries, suicides
17 and deaths in order to save money on gunshot related deaths,
18 nonfatal injuries, medical costs, incarceration and the devastation
19 to society as a whole.

20 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that any legislation that is
21 enacted creating the board would also require that any program
22 implemented by the board or grants provided by the board would
23 do the following:

24 (1) Demonstrate achievement of program goals and measurable
25 improvements in gun violence. A method is needed for
26 documenting the logical connection between provided services
27 and avoided costly crisis intervention services and negative
28 outcomes. Data collected should reflect improved outcomes
29 consistent with the mission of the board.

30 (2) Demonstrate a systematic approach to achieving improved
31 outcomes, including evidence of effective partnerships with other
32 agencies, thereby avoiding costly inefficiencies, fragmentation, or
33 duplication.

34 (3) Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of creating
35 diversified funding sources for prevention and early intervention
36 services and knowledge of how to leverage or braid eligible
37 categorical dollars and private funds to maximize dollars available
38 for prevention and early intervention programs, including pursuing
39 necessary relationships and implementing appropriate program

1 documentation to expand eligibility for categorical state and federal
2 dollars.

3 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that any legislation enacted
4 to create the board would also require the board to do all of the
5 following:

6 (1) Implement programs, and adopt standards, rules, and
7 regulations in accordance with the provisions of this act to reduce
8 gun violence.

9 (2) Conduct research into the causes of, and solutions to, gun
10 violence, and systematically attack the serious problems caused
11 by gun violence.

12 (3) Provide grant money to reduce gun violence.

13 (d) The board would do both of the following:

14 (1) Contract for technical advisory services and other services
15 as may be necessary for the performance of its powers and duties.

16 (2) Appoint advisory groups and committees as it requires.

17 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that any legislation enacted
18 to create the board would also provide funding for the board by
19 imposing a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee on all retail sales of
20 firearms, or transfers of firearms between persons who are not
21 licensed firearms dealers, and that moneys generated pursuant to
22 those provisions would be deposited in the Gun Safety Board
23 Special Fund.