

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 203

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

WEAPONS. Creates the office of gun violence prevention. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 36:408(J) and Subpart A-1 of Part III of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 40:1411.1 through 1411.3, relative to creating the office of gun violence prevention within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services; to provide for purposes and functions of the office; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for the office coordinator; to provide for reports; to provide for authorization of sources of funding; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 36:408(J) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§408. Offices; purposes and functions

\* \* \*

**J. The office of gun violence prevention shall perform the functions of the state relative to gun violence prevention research and make such policy recommendations to reduce gun violence in the state. This office shall be under the direct supervision and control of the superintendent of state police, deputy secretary of public safety services.**

1 Section 2. Subpart A-1 of Part III of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised  
2 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 40:1411.1 through 1411.3, is hereby enacted to read as  
3 follows:

4 **SUBPART A-1. OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

5 **§1411.1. Legislative intent**

6 **The legislature of the state of Louisiana declares that gun violence shall**  
7 **be recognized and addressed as a public safety and health crisis utilizing a**  
8 **public safety and health data-based approach taking into consideration all of**  
9 **the following:**

10 **(1) The specifics of gun violence and gun homicides in each community,**  
11 **including but not limited to identification of those most affected, identification**  
12 **of contributing factors, and identification of factors creating greater safety for**  
13 **those most affected by gun violence in each community.**

14 **(2) The root causes of gun violence in the community, including but not**  
15 **limited to racism, poverty, political neglect, lack of affordable housing, food**  
16 **insecurity, unemployment, untreated trauma, and the evaluation of community**  
17 **conditions. Evaluation of community conditions includes the comparison of**  
18 **community conditions and opportunities for communities with a high risk of**  
19 **gun violence and those with a lesser risk of gun violence in order to identify and**  
20 **create greater safety for high-risk communities through community**  
21 **surroundings. For the purposes of this Subpart, community surroundings**  
22 **include but are not limited to streets, parks, schools, community-based**  
23 **organizations, youth and community centers, and places of worship.**

24 **(3) A commitment for gun violence prevention efforts to focus on**  
25 **addressing and healing individual, interpersonal, and community trauma**  
26 **inflicted as a result of gun violence.**

27 **§1411.2. Office of gun violence prevention; coordinator; purpose; plan of action**

28 **A. There is hereby established within the Department of Public Safety**  
29 **and Corrections, public safety services, the office of gun violence prevention and**

1 shall exercise the powers and duties set forth in this Subpart or otherwise  
2 provided by law. The office shall be administered by the coordinator who shall  
3 be appointed by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation, and serve for a  
4 term concurrent with the governor.

5 B. The purpose of the office shall be to develop a strategy through  
6 collaboration with other state agencies, as well as members of various  
7 communities, including but not limited to youth, trusted community  
8 messengers, community-based organizations, faith leaders, grassroots  
9 organizers, political leaders, business owners, and other organizations and  
10 individuals with expertise in the field to identify causes of gun violence in a  
11 community and to incorporate a public safety and health approach to improve  
12 social determinants of safety and health for communities most affected by gun  
13 violence.

14 C. The office shall submit an initial written plan of action to the  
15 legislature, no later than February 1, 2026, detailing how the office will  
16 incorporate a public safety and health approach to any gun violence  
17 prevention-related programs and services.

18 D. In creating the plan of action required by Subsection C of this Section,  
19 the office shall collaborate with those impacted by gun violence, to identify and  
20 evaluate innovative and successful community-based violence prevention  
21 programs, and focus on how any proposed programs and services may address  
22 trauma in communities with a high degree of gun violence.

23 E. The office may collaborate with institutions of higher learning and  
24 non-governmental organizations to collect and evaluate information in  
25 developing the office's strategy and recommendations to combat gun violence  
26 in this state.

27 §1411.3. Sources of funding authorized

28 The office may receive and expend funds as may be necessary to carry  
29 out the requirements of this Subpart, including but not limited to funds

1           **appropriated by the legislature, including any appropriation of federal funds,**  
 2           **and any public or private donations, gifts, or grants from governmental sources,**  
 3           **individuals, corporations, nonprofit organizations, business entities, and any**  
 4           **other lawful source.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

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## DIGEST

SB 203 Original

2024 Regular Session

Duplessis

Proposed law provides that the office of gun violence prevention (office) perform the functions of the state relative to gun violence prevention research and make such policy recommendations to reduce gun violence in the state.

Proposed law provides that the office be under the direct supervision and control of the superintendent of state police.

Proposed law provides that the office be administered by the coordinator appointed by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation, for a term concurrent with the governor.

Proposed law requires the office to develop a strategy through collaboration with other state agencies, as well as members of various communities, including but not limited to youth, trusted community messengers, community-based organizations, faith leaders, grassroots organizers, political leaders, business owners, and other organizations and individuals with expertise in the field to identify causes of gun violence in a community and to incorporate a public safety and health approach to improve social determinants of safety and health for communities most affected by gun violence.

Proposed law requires the office to submit an initial written plan of action to the legislature, no later than February 1, 2026, detailing how the office will incorporate a public safety and health approach to any gun violence prevention-related programs and services.

Proposed law requires the office to collaborate with those impacted by gun violence, to identify and evaluate innovative and successful community-based violence prevention programs, and focus on how any proposed programs and services may address trauma in communities with a high degree of gun violence.

Proposed law authorizes the office to collaborate with institutions of higher learning and non-governmental organizations to collect and evaluate information in developing the office's strategy and recommendations to combat gun violence in this state.

Proposed law authorizes the office to receive and expend funds as may be necessary to carry out the requirements of proposed law, including but not limited to funds appropriated by the legislature, including any appropriation of federal funds, and any public or private donations, gifts, or grants from governmental sources, individuals, corporations, nonprofit organizations, business entities, and any other lawful source.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 36:408(J) and R.S. 40:1411.1-1411.3)