

Date of Hearing: May 10, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Chris Holden, Chair
AB 912 (Jones-Sawyer) – As Amended April 17, 2023

Policy Committee:	Public Safety	Vote:	7 - 0
	Education		6 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill, citing the cost savings to the state from planned prison closures, allocates \$235 million in grant funding to be distributed by state agencies to early violence intervention programs, school-based physical and mental health services, and youth recreational activities.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Appropriates \$235 million in funding from the General Fund (GF) for the purpose of delivering diversion and alternative-sanction programs, academic- and vocational-education services, mentoring, behavioral health services, and mental health services, as follows:
 - a) \$50 million to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to provide operational grants to school-based health centers in order to provide physical and mental health services to youth on school sites.
 - b) \$50 million to the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) to administer a grant program to provide funding to local education agencies to implement intervention program for pupils impacted by trauma.
 - c) \$50 million to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to award grants for the purpose of supporting existing and creating new parks and recreation opportunities, as well as supporting existing and creating new summer programs for youth, including, but not limited to, extended park hours and expanded programming for nighttime sports, educational activities, and visual and performing arts opportunities, in order to create and enhance recreation- and health-based interventions for youth during peak times of violence.
 - d) \$50 million to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) for the purpose of awarding grants pursuant to the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program.
 - e) \$35 million to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the purposes of providing funds to support evidence-based, focus-deterrence collaborative programs that conduct direct outreach to targeted gangs in order to preemptively reduce and eliminate violence and gang involvement.
- 2) Requires CDPH to make available planning grants, facilities and startup grants, expansion grants, and sustainability grants of \$50,000 to \$850,000, as specified, to establish, expand,

and implement school-based health centers that provide primary medical care and strive to provide other comprehensive and integrated health care services, address the population health of a school campus, and provide support to students and families, among other specified goals.

- 3) Requires DPR to award grants to local governments and with preference to community-based organizations (CBOs) to support existing and create new parks and recreation opportunities, as well as summer programs for youth, while ensuring priority is given to underserved populations and CBOs. Mandates that the DPR give priority to outdoor recreational and health-based intervention programs that operate during peak times of violence.
- 4) Reestablishes the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program (YRGP) and designates OYCR to administer it. Creates the Youth Reinvestment Fund and allocates monies into it, and requires that OYCR allocate YRGP funds to implement a mixed-delivery system of trauma informed health and development diversion programs, with designated funding reserved for Native American youth diversion programs.
- 5) Requires HHSa to administer a grant program to provide funding to local education agencies to implement intervention programs for pupils impacted by trauma, with priority to agencies located in Alameda, Fresno, Merced, Tulare, Kern, and Los Angeles counties, and to fund a research organization to study specified student outcomes for the improvement in the health and well-being of the youth and school and community stability.
- 6) Creates the DOJ Violence Reduction Grant Program (VGRP) which requires the DOJ to oversee a grant program to support, expand, and replicate evidence-based, deterrence-focused, collaborative programs that conduct outreach to individuals involved in gangs and offer supportive services as a preemptive measure to curb gang violence, and states that the grants must be made on a competitive basis with preference to jurisdictions disproportionately impacted by violence and gangs, and community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve such jurisdictions.
- 7) Establishes requirements for the above-named agencies in implementing these grant programs, including eligibility criteria for grant recipients, specified populations to be served and prioritized for grants, programs, and services, grant size, and the timing and duration of grants. Defines terms relating to the services to be provided and populations to be served by the grants disbursed.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time cost (GF) of \$235 million in appropriations to the following agencies: (a) \$50 million to CDPH to provide grants to school-based health centers; (b) \$50 million to HHSa to administer a trauma intervention program; (c) \$50 million to DPR to award grants for parks and recreation opportunities and youth activities; (d) \$50 million to OYCR for youth reinvestment grants; and (e) \$35 million to DOJ for violence reduction grants.
- 2) Potential ongoing administrative costs (GF) to CDPH, HHSa, DPR, OYCR, and DOJ of an unknown but significant amount. The bill allows DOJ and OYCR to spend 7% and 3%, respectively, of the funds appropriated to them for program administration. The bill does not provide administrative cost guidelines for CDPH, HHSa, or DPR. If administrative costs for

those agencies are not paid out of the appropriations described in (1), the administrative costs for each agency would likely be in the low millions of dollars annually. To the extent the bill adds additional responsibilities for CDPH, HHSA, DPR, OYCR, and DOJ outside of administration of the grant programs described above, those responsibilities would likely result in workload pressures requiring additional GF funding.

The author submitted five budget requests related to this bill, seeking: (a) \$50 million for school-based health centers; (b) \$50 million for trauma intervention programs; (c) \$50 million for parks, recreation, and health-based opportunities; (d) \$50 million for the Youth Reinvestment Grant Fund; and (e) \$35 million for programs to reduce gang violence and involvement.

COMMENTS:

1) **Author's Statement.** According to the author:

By advancing sensible legislation and budget items to improve public safety and advance justice and equity, the State Legislature has decreased the number of incarcerated people in California. It is imperative that the resulting savings be reinvested into effective strategies proven to further reduce crime and violence. AB 912, the SAFE Act, will capture the savings from the closure of two prisons in the 2023-24 state budget and reinvest those funds in programs with proven success. By keeping the funding within our crime prevention budget rather than sending it back to the General Fund, we send a message that our efforts to reduce crime are continuous and we provide much needed resources for some outstanding programs. As such, the SAFE Act, specifically, will provide ongoing funding for the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program; reduce gang violence and gang involvement through programs modeled after successful ones, such as Oakland Ceasefire; expand the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) program; increase access to physical and mental health services for K-12 students through school-based health centers; and, support parks and recreation opportunities, including summer youth leagues and extended programming.

2) **Background.** In 2022, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) announced that it intends to deactivate two state prisons by March 2025: California City Correctional Facility and Chuckawalla Valley State Prison. CDCR has also announced plans to close portions of six additional state prisons. The Governor's budget for 2023-24 includes a reduction of about \$280 million, primarily from the General Fund, due to the planned deactivation of prison facilities. This bill intends to capitalize on the anticipated cost savings from those prison closures and direct significant resources to fund long-term efforts to reduce violence and incarceration in California.

Analysis Prepared by: Annika Carlson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081