

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 63

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires University Behavioral Health Care and School of Criminal Justice of Rutgers University to undertake comprehensive study of firearms violence; appropriates \$400,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on February 8, 2018, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/27/2018)

1 AN ACT requiring a study of firearms violence ¹**[and]**,¹
2 supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes ¹, and making
3 an appropriation¹.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. Firearms violence is a public health crisis in New Jersey and
10 throughout the United States.

11 b. On average, 89 people die in the United States every day
12 from firearms violence.

13 c. According to FBI crime reports for 2013 and 2014, the most
14 recent years for which data are available, over 72 percent of
15 murders in New Jersey were committed using firearms.

16 d. Despite the inordinate number of deaths attributable to
17 firearms violence, very little scientific research has been performed
18 during the past two decades to identify effective ways of reducing
19 firearms violence, in part, as a result of federal legislative
20 provisions and a lack of federal funding.

21 e. In the face of this public health crisis, scientists have urged
22 Congress to facilitate research on firearms violence and prevention.
23 Recently, over 2,000 doctors in all 50 states and the District of
24 Columbia signed a petition urging Congress to remove barriers to
25 research that have existed for nearly 20 years, and provide annual
26 funding to identify causes of and ways to prevent firearms violence.

27 f. Obtaining scientific data about firearms violence and its
28 prevention is critical to effectively addressing the harm this public
29 health crisis inures on the citizens of this State.

30 g. In order to protect the citizens of New Jersey, a study should
31 be undertaken to identify the root causes of firearms violence and to
32 recommend effective firearms violence prevention policies and
33 programs.
34

35 2. a. University Behavioral Health Care of Rutgers, the State
36 University of New Jersey, ¹in conjunction with the School of
37 Criminal Justice of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, as
38 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.280 (C.18A:65-55.1 et seq.),¹
39 shall conduct a comprehensive firearms violence study to research
40 firearms-related violence. Specifically, the study shall examine the
41 following:

42 (1) ¹**[The]** the¹ nature of firearms violence, including individual
43 and societal determinants of risk for involvement in firearms
44 violence, whether as a victim or a perpetrator;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SLP committee amendments adopted February 8, 2018.

1 (2) ¹~~【The】~~ the¹ individual, community, and societal
2 consequences of firearms violence; and

3 (3) ¹~~【Prevention】~~ prevention¹ and treatment of firearms
4 violence at the individual, community, and societal levels.

5 b. The study shall utilize a variety of research methods with a
6 mission to provide the scientific evidence on which sound firearms
7 violence prevention policies and programs can be based. The
8 research shall extend to firearms violence as a form of terrorism.

9 c. University Behavioral Health Care ¹and the School of
10 Criminal Justice¹ shall work on a continuing basis with
11 policymakers in the Legislature and State agencies to identify,
12 implement, and evaluate innovative firearms violence prevention
13 policies and programs.

14 d. To assist in ensuring a long-term and successful effort to
15 understand and prevent firearms violence, University Behavioral
16 Health Care ¹and the School of Criminal Justice¹ shall recruit and
17 provide specialized training opportunities for researchers, including
18 experienced investigators in related fields with expertise in firearms
19 violence, investigators who have completed their education,
20 postdoctoral scholars, doctoral students, and undergraduates.

21 e. In addition to any appropriations provided, University
22 Behavioral Health Care ¹~~【may】~~ and the School of Criminal Justice¹
23 also ¹may¹ seek additional federal, State, and private funding to be
24 used to conduct firearms violence research pursuant to ¹~~【P.L. ,~~
25 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)] the
26 provisions of this section.¹

27
28 ¹3. There is appropriated \$400,000 from the General Fund to
29 University Behavioral Health Care and the School of Criminal
30 Justice to conduct a firearms violence study to research firearms-
31 related violence pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L. ,
32 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).¹

33
34 ¹~~【3.】~~ 4.¹ This act shall take effect on the first day of the third
35 month following enactment.