

SENATE, No. 4215

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 2, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Supplemental appropriation of \$2,000,000 to fund Center on Gun Violence Research.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SUPPLEMENT** to the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year
2 ending June 30, 2022, P.L.2021, c.133.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and the General Assembly of the
5 State of New Jersey:

6
7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2021,
8 c.133, the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June
9 30, 2022, there is appropriated from the General Fund the following
10 amount for the purpose specified:

11
12 **74 DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

13 *30 Educational, Cultural, and Intellectual Development*

14 *36 Higher Educational Services*

15 *2400 Office of the Secretary of Higher Education*

16
17 **GRANTS-IN-AID**

18 80-2400 Office of the Secretary of Higher Education \$2,000,000
19 Total Grants-in-Aid appropriation,
20 Higher Education Services \$2,000,000

21 **Grants-in-Aid:**

22 80 Center on Gun Violence Research \$2,000,000

23
24 The amounts hereinabove appropriated for the Center on Gun
25 Violence Research, an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, subject to
26 the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and
27 Accounting, is appropriated to support interdisciplinary research on
28 the causes and consequences of, and solutions to, gun-related
29 violence.

30
31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

32
33
34 **STATEMENT**

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36 This bill appropriates \$2,000,000 to fund the Center on Gun
37 Violence Research through the New Jersey Office of the Secretary
38 of Higher Education.

39 Currently, the State of New Jersey funds the Rutgers New Jersey
40 Gun Violence Research Center (GVRC) to research causes of gun
41 violence and prevention. According to GVRC, the center is among
42 the first state funded research centers in the United States that
43 conduct interdisciplinary research on the causes, consequences, and
44 solutions to gun-related violence, while respecting the rights to
45 legally and safely own and use a gun.

46 The GVRC is jointly led by the Rutgers Schools of Public Health
47 and Criminal Justice and incorporates faculty from among Rutgers'

1 more than 30 schools and colleges, spanning multiple campuses
2 across the State.

3 The GVRC consists of four main core areas:

- 4 • Data Core is responsible for facilitating data linkage, generating
5 epidemiological reports, and informing research needs;
- 6 • Research Core is responsible for overseeing the peer-reviewed
7 research award process, supporting research projects, and setting
8 the Center agenda and research priorities;
- 9 • Training and Education Core conducts the training and education
10 program, prioritized by research findings and strategic plans; and
- 11 • Outreach Core is responsible for bridging the research-to-
12 practice and practice-to-research continuum, linking and
13 communicating with governmental and non-governmental bodies,
14 and engaging practitioners and community members.

15 Since FY 2019, the State has annually funded the Center on Gun
16 Violence Research through a \$2 million appropriation with the
17 exception of FY 2021. In FY 2021, the State appropriated
18 \$500,000.

19 This supplemental appropriation will continue the State's support
20 of interdisciplinary research on the causes and consequences of, and
21 solutions to, gun-related violence.