

Date of Hearing: May 10, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 762 (Wicks) – As Amended April 17, 2023

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill changes the purpose of the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program, alters the eligibility requirements for grant recipients, increases the maximum grant amount from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million, and eliminates the program's sunset date.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Changes the purpose of CalVIP from reducing violence in the form of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults to reducing community gun violence.
- 2) Expands CalVIP to counties that have one or more cities disproportionately impacted by community gun violence and to tribal governments.
- 3) Allows the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to award competitive grants in amounts not to exceed \$2.5 million per applicant per year. The length of the grant cycle shall be at least three years.
- 4) Allows the BSCC to reserve up to \$2 million of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year for the costs of administering and promoting the effectiveness of the program rather than the existing 5% allowed for administrative purposes.
- 5) Removes the sunset date of January 1, 2025, and allows the CalVIP to operate indefinitely.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs to BSCC (General Fund) of approximately \$300,000 annually. BSCC reports that these costs would cover two additional FTE positions and travel, supplies, and indirect expenses required to fulfill the requirements of this bill for the CalVIP program.

COMMENTS:

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

Back in 2019, myself along with my colleague Asm. Petrie-Norris, authored and passed AB 1603, formerly known as the Break the Cycle of Violence Act, which codified and significantly reformed the then-new CalVIP grant program. Within that measure however, a sunset

date of January 1, 2025 was established. To foster program stability, longer-term strategic planning, and renew the state's commitment to violence intervention professionals' lifesaving work, we must renew the Break the Cycle of Violence Act and write the CalVIP program more permanently into the public safety infrastructure of our state.

AB 762 will indefinitely extend the provisions already established within the Break the Cycle of Violence Act. In addition, AB 762 will make various technical changes to the authorizing statute to clarify definitions for grant administrators and applicants, authorize tribal governments and counties to apply for grants, and incorporate some vetted best practices that will help address some of the barriers to access for new programs.

- 2) **Background.** CalVIP provides funding for cities and community-based organizations to help reduce violence in the funded cities and adjacent areas. Through this program the BSCC distributes grant funding to evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including hospital-based intervention programs, street outreach programs, and deterrence strategies. This bill would shift CalVIP's focus from violence reduction generally to reduction of community gun violence. Under this bill, grant applicants must propose an evidence-based community gun violence reduction initiative, and BSCC must give preference to initiatives that demonstrate the greatest likelihood of reducing community gun violence.
- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 28 (Gabriel) imposes an excise tax on firearm and ammunition retailers and directs the first \$75 million in available funds resulting from the tax to the CalVIP Program.

AB 912 (Jones-Sawyer), citing cost savings to the state from planned prison closures, funds early violence intervention programs, school-based physical and mental health services, and youth recreational activities.

- 4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 1603 (Wicks), Chapter 735, Statutes of 2019, codified the CalVIP Program and the authority and duties of the BSCC in administering the program, including the selection criteria for grants and reporting requirements to the Legislature.

AB 97 (Committee on Budget) Chapter 14, Statutes of 2017, among other provisions, provided more than \$9 million to the BSCC for the purpose of administering CalVIP grants

AB 18 (Levine), of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, would have codified the CalVIP grant program and imposed a firearm excise tax of \$25 on the purchase of a new firearm. AB 18 was held on this committee's suspense file.

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