

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2247 (Elhawary) – As Amended April 23, 2026

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 12 - 4

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill creates the Trauma Healing and Resilience Investment for Victimized and Exposed Youth Act (T.H.R.I.V.E.). The bill requires, upon an appropriation, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide a grant to each county or city and county to establish and administer a program to pay for mental health (MH) and counseling services for youth survivors of gun violence.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

General Fund cost pressures to DHCS of an unknown amount, likely in the millions of dollars per year, or more, for grants alone. The bill requires DHCS to provide 58 grants in the first year of implementation, and the bill states the intent to appropriate funds sufficient to pay for every youth survivor of gun violence in California to receive a minimum of one year of mental health and counseling services at an amount of \$7,800 per survivor, per year. Costs to DHCS to administer the program would also be significant.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ). According to the author:

When young people experience violence, timely support can make the difference between surviving and truly healing. But in California, too many youth, especially those in under-resourced communities, face real barriers to accessing mental health care after trauma. Existing systems are difficult to navigate, slow to respond, and often out of reach when support is needed most. Too many young survivors fall through the cracks. [This bill] creates more accessible pathways to care by allowing trusted, community-based organizations to directly support youth victims. This bill is about meeting young people where they are and making sure help is available when it matters most.

- 2) **Background.** The California Violence Intervention Program (CalVIP) provides grant funding for initiatives to reduce community gun violence, to communities disproportionately

impacted by such violence. Funding is awarded to qualifying cities, counties, and community-based organizations on a competitive basis. The program was established in 2017 to replace a gang-related prevention and intervention program that began in 2007, and was narrowed to focus on community gun violence specifically through AB 762 (Wicks), Chapter 421, Statutes of 2023. State law requires CalVIP grants be used to support, expand and replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including but not limited to: hospital-based violence intervention programs, evidence-based street outreach programs, and focused deterrence strategies.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 2378 (Gabriel) establishes the Office of Community Violence Intervention to administer the CalVIP grant program, advise the Board of State and Community Corrections on implementation of community violence intervention policies, and provide technical assistance to CalVIP grantees. AB 2378 is pending in this committee.

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