

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2378 (Gabriel) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill creates the Office of Community Violence Intervention within the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to administer the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP) and advise the board on community violence intervention and prevention policy.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Establishes the office within BSCC, led by a director appointed by the board, and transfers day-to-day administration of CalVIP — including recommending grant awardees and convening the executive steering committee — from the board generally to the new office.
- 2) Replaces the existing flat \$2 million administrative set-aside with a floor of \$1 million and a ceiling of up to 5% of the annual CalVIP appropriation for the office’s operations.
- 3) Requires the office to produce a report every other year on community violence intervention and prevention beginning July 1, 2028.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Ongoing costs of an unknown but potentially significant amount, likely in the low millions of dollars to establish the office. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) anticipates a cost of approximately \$2.3 million to \$2.8 million annually from the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund for BSCC to establish and operate the Office of Community Violence Intervention, within the bill’s authorized 5% administrative set-aside. BSCC anticipates this is sufficient and requires no additional resources. Staffing includes a director (up to approximately \$168,000 salary plus benefits) and one to two analyst positions (approximately \$400,000 combined); remaining office staff would be redirected from existing CalVIP administration. BSCC also indicates that establishing the office will require additional office space — including an office for the director and one to two cubicles for support staff — and notes that BSCC has already outgrown its existing space and is exploring solutions; these facilities costs are not separately quantified in BSCC’s estimate. The bill shifts the administrative set-aside from a flat \$2 million cap under existing law to “up to 5%” of the annual appropriation. At current and projected funding levels (approximately \$52 million to \$56 million annually), the 5% cap reduces funds available for grants by approximately \$300,000 to \$800,000 per year compared to the existing \$2 million cap. Because CalVIP is funded from a continuously appropriated special fund dedicated to gun violence prevention, the bill has no direct General

Fund impact. Individual CalVIP grants range from \$1 million to \$6 million, and BSCC characterizes the reduction in grant funds from the expanded administrative set-aside as negligible at that scale.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California's gun violence prevention programs have proven to be some of the most effective ways of stopping gun violence in our state. Through its flagship initiative, the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) program, California has achieved measurable reductions in the firearm fatality rate in many communities most impacted by gun violence. To better position the program moving forward based on lessons that we've learned so far, AB 2378 would establish an Office of Community Violence Intervention, overseen by a director, to administer the CalVIP program and provide additional support to applicants and grantees. These changes will better equip the program to continue its growth, and in turn, help California remain the national leader of gun safety and community violence intervention.

- 2) **Background.** CalVIP was established administratively in 2017 and codified in statute by AB 1603 (Jones-Sawyer), Chapter 735, Statutes of 2019, the Break the Cycle of Violence Act. The program awards competitive grants to cities, counties, tribal governments, and community-based organizations disproportionately impacted by community gun violence. Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, CalVIP has been funded through the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund, which receives revenue from the firearm and ammunition excise tax enacted by AB 28 (Gabriel), Chapter 231, Statutes of 2023. Under Revenue and Taxation Code section 36005, the first \$75 million of fund revenues each year (or as much as is available) is continuously appropriated to BSCC for CalVIP. According to BSCC, actual deposits have been below that cap: \$56.4 million for FY 2025-26, with projected deposits of \$51.9 million for FY 2026-27 and \$53.2 million for FY 2027-28. Under existing law, BSCC may set aside up to \$2 million of the annual CalVIP appropriation to cover the costs of administering the program. BSCC reports that it currently spends nearly all of that \$2 million reserve each year.

This bill creates the Office of Community Violence Intervention within BSCC, led by a director appointed by the board, to take over day-to-day administration of CalVIP and serve as a coordinating point for community violence intervention policy. The office would administer CalVIP, recommend grant awardees to the board, convene and facilitate the executive steering committee, provide technical assistance to CalVIP grantees and community violence intervention organizations, and beginning July 1, 2028, produce a report every two years on community violence intervention and prevention. BSCC indicates the board will retain ultimate grant authority and will act on the office's recommendations. The bill also revises the existing \$2 million administrative reserve, replacing the flat dollar cap with a requirement that BSCC reserve at least \$1 million and authorizing it to reserve up to 5% of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year. BSCC's \$2.3 million to \$2.8 million estimate consumes 4.4% to 5.4% of the annual CalVIP appropriation at current and projected funding levels, leaving little to no headroom under the 5% statutory cap. Because the cap is

keyed to the annual appropriation rather than to a fixed dollar amount, any future reduction in CalVIP funding — including from underperformance of the firearm and ammunition excise tax that supports the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Fund — would proportionally shrink the amount available to administer the program while the office's statutory duties (technical assistance, regional convenings, evaluation oversight, data collection and reporting, and coordination with state and local partners) remain fixed. To the extent the set-aside proves insufficient to fund the office's full statutory responsibilities, BSCC would face pressure either to further reduce funds available for grants or to seek additional resources in a future budget cycle.

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