

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2378 (Gabriel and Wicks)
As Introduced February 19, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Creates the Office of Community Violence Intervention (OCVI) within the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

Major Provisions

- 1) Establishes the OCVI within the BSCC, which shall be led by a director.
- 2) States that the OCVI shall do all of the following:
 - a) Administer the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP), as defined.
 - b) Advise the board on the implementation of community violence intervention and prevention policies.
 - c) Coordinate with the Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention to create a statewide strategic plan for community violence intervention and prevention programs.
 - d) Develop methods of measuring the capacity of the community violence intervention and prevention field in California and gather data from CalVIP grantees.
 - e) Educate the public about community violence causes and effective solutions.
 - f) Identify and apply for available federal grants and other funding to further its work to prevent community violence. When the office determines it is appropriate, the office may work in collaboration with other state departments and partners to identify and apply for federal grants and other funding.
 - g) Convene and facilitate the executive steering committee.
 - h) Serve as a liaison to community violence intervention and prevention stakeholders, including other governmental agencies.
 - i) Provide technical assistance for community violence intervention and prevention organizations and CalVIP grantees.
 - j) On July 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter, produce a report that does all of the following:
 - i) Highlights best practices in the community violence intervention and prevention field.
 - ii) Identifies barriers to success, policy gaps, and promising practices that could be scaled or replicated in the state.

- iii) Includes the evaluations of the impact of the prepared violence prevention initiatives.
 - iv) Recommends strategies, policies, and priorities for reducing community violence to the board, Legislature, and other stakeholders.
 - k) Within 60 days after completing the specified report, the office shall make the report publicly available and transmit copies to the Governor's office, the Senate Committee on Public Safety, and the Assembly Committee on Public Safety.
- 3) Requires BSCC to reserve at least \$1,000,000, and may reserve up to 5 percent of the funds appropriated for CalVIP each year, for the costs of OCVI for the purposes of administering and promoting the effectiveness of the program, instead of authorizing up to \$2,000,000 for that purpose.
- 4) Makes conforming changes.

COMMENTS

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."

Arguments in Support

According to *Youth Alive!*, "We write in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 2378, which would establish an Office of Community Violence Intervention to administer the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant Program.

"Youth Alive is a nationally recognized community-based organization known for initiating an alliance to treat violence as a public health crisis and developing young leaders in the process. Through our community-based violence intervention and healing programs, we serve hundreds of gunshot victims and their families every year, while also interrupting violence and resolving conflicts to guide individuals away from committing future violence. As a leader in the community violence intervention (CVI) field, our desire to elevate the state's ability to fortify and advance the work of life-saving programs around the state informs our support of AB 2378.

"The CalVIP Grant Program supports initiatives across the state that have proven to be among the most effective strategies for preventing gun violence, and is one of the most cost-effective investments in public safety for the state of California. Last year, California had its lowest gun homicide rate ever recorded, driven by significant reductions in the age 15 – 24 demographics

that are a key target population of the program. Further demonstrating this success, some communities that have historically received funding through CalVIP have made large enough public safety improvements that they may no longer be eligible for future rounds of funding.

"During the most recent application cycle, requests for over \$1 billion in funding for community-based violence intervention programs were submitted, a dramatic increase from just a few years ago that greatly exceeded available funding. While CalVIP is overseen by the Board of State and Community Corrections, there is no dedicated, senior-level position to oversee the program's growth and support the grantees it serves. To better equip this flagship program to continue its growth and success, AB 2378 would establish the Office of Community Violence Intervention, to be overseen by a director, to administer CalVIP, coordinate with the Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention, engage in strategic planning, and provide technical assistance and support to grantees and applicants.

"Through these changes, AB 2378 will provide greater support and guidance to critical community-based work, enabling California to remain a national leader for violence prevention and gun safety."

Arguments in Opposition

According to *Gun Owners of California*, "On behalf of Gun Owners of California, I am writing to oppose your AB 2378, which would create the Office of Community Violence Intervention within the Board of State and Community Corrections, and would require the office to improve public health and safety by supporting effective community gun violence reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately impacted by community gun violence. "Community gun violence" is defined as "intentional acts of interpersonal violence involving a firearm, generally committed in public areas by individuals who are not intimately related to the victim, and which result in physical injury, emotional harm, or death.

"Notwithstanding the policy arguments in opposition to this bill, it's important to note that California's budget problem is significantly larger than previously anticipated. According to the Legislative Analyst, under current revenue and spending estimates, the Legislature faces an almost \$18 billion budget problem this fiscal year. This is roughly \$5 billion larger than the budget problem projected by the administration in June, despite improvements in revenue. Moreover, the LAO estimates costs in other programs to be about \$6 billion higher than previously thought. Starting in 2027-28, they estimate structural deficits to grow to about \$35 billion annually due to spending growth continuing to outstrip revenue growth.

"This is not the time to create a new 'office.'"

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "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."

VOTES

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 8-0-1

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

ABS, ABST OR NV: Haney

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 12-1-2

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Dixon

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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CONSULTANT: Dustin Weber / PUB. S. / (916) 319-3744

FN: 0002871