

HB38 INTRODUCED



1 HB38
2 9HWYPBP-1
3 By Representative Ensler
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
5 First Read: 06-Feb-24
6 PFD: 12-Jan-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would create within the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs the Community-Based Violence Prevention Program.

This bill would also provide for a pilot program to fund the establishment or expansion of community-based violence prevention programs created by municipalities, subject to appropriation.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to community outreach; to provide for the development of a Community-Based Violence Prevention Program within the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs; and to provide for a pilot program to fund the establishment or expansion of community-based violence prevention programs created by municipalities, subject to appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) There is created within the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) the Community-Based Violence Prevention Program.



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29 (b) In connection with the Community-Based Violence
30 Prevention Program, ADECA shall do both of the following:

31 (1) Adopt by rule, in coordination with state, public,
32 and private entities, a master plan for the program.

33 (2) Undertake a public information campaign regarding
34 the master plan, the need for community-based violence
35 prevention, and any programs currently active in the state.

36 (c) During the development of the master plan, ADECA
37 shall incorporate all of the following components of
38 successful community-based violence prevention:

39 (1) Narrow focus on a well-defined population of
40 individuals at greatest risk for violence within an area.

41 (2) Outreach linking participants to social services
42 and providing exit strategies from criminal activities through
43 one-on-one coaching, mentoring, and relationship building.

44 (3) Formal mentorship activities that facilitate client
45 engagement, build relationships, establish connections to
46 wraparound services, and create pathways to avoid dangerous
47 situations.

48 (4) Case management that identifies participants,
49 connects them with timely and tailored activities or services,
50 provides alternatives for high-risk individuals choosing to
51 leave a life of violence, coordinates follow-up service
52 delivery efforts, monitors progress, and captures performance
53 outcomes.

54 (5) Community mobilization and public education that
55 reinforces norms against violence and gives individuals the
56 sense that they can take collective action against crime in



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57 their neighborhoods.

58 (6) Involvement of faith-based organizations and other
59 entities that aim to change norms on violence, make known the
60 perceived costs of violence, and deliver services to
61 participants and their associates or friends.

62 (7) Community notification meetings where individuals
63 involved with criminal markets or gangs are called together by
64 criminal justice agencies and community organizations and
65 informed that if any member of a group engages in violence,
66 the entire group will become a priority for law enforcement.

67 (d) (1) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature,
68 ADECA shall establish a pilot program to provide grants to
69 municipalities to establish or expand community-based violence
70 prevention programs based on the minimum requirements of the
71 master plan adopted under subsection (b).

72 (2) The department shall develop an application and
73 evaluation process for the program and shall publish all
74 relevant details, requirements, and deadlines related to the
75 application and evaluation process on a publicly available
76 website.

77 (3) The department shall adopt rules to require any
78 municipality that receives funds from the program to send
79 regular progress reports to ADECA. Any municipality that
80 receives program funds and subsequently fails to comply with
81 official reporting requirements shall be required to return
82 all funds received.

83 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
84 1, 2024.