

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.

57th Assembly District



AB 2064: Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program

SUMMARY

This bill creates the Community Violence Interdiction Program within the California Health and Human Services Agency to fund community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools. The fund will receive an appropriation equal to the amount of projected savings from any future prison closure.

BACKGROUND

Over the last few decades, the California State Legislature has successfully passed numerous bills supporting criminal justice reform. Coupled with the public's action at the ballot in the form of Proposition 47 and 57, these collective actions have resulted in a major reduction in the number of incarcerated Californians; clear indication of a shift away from the over-criminalization and harsh, excessive penalties of the past.

As a result of this activity, the State has seen a massive reduction in its prison population from a peak of 163,000 in 2006 to an estimated 93,400 in 2023-24. With the reduction in population comes states savings as we have been positioned to shut down prisons due to empty beds. Since 2021, the three planned closures (including one lease termination) has resulted in \$450 million in annual ongoing savings. An additional \$170 million in ongoing savings was generated by deactivating six specified facilities at different prisons.

These savings should not be returned to the General Fund as they are the result of years of hard work from the legislature and stakeholders alike. Instead, these funds should be reinvested into programs known to prevent incarceration on the front end, thereby continually providing funding through more closures.

THIS BILL

AB 2064 creates the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Fund to be funded by savings from the closure of state prisons. The fund will allow the California Health and Human Services Agency to administer the Community Violence Interdiction Grant Program to provide funding for community-driven solutions to decrease violence in neighborhoods and schools.

Eligible programs include:

- Supportive programs that preemptively reduce and eliminate violence and gang involvement
- Programs that create recreational opportunities during peak times of violence
- Health programs that address youth trauma
- Youth diversion programs
- School-based health centers

SUPPORT

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