

Amendment No. 1 to SB0222

Gardenhire
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 222*

House Bill No. 1027

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting:

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program tracks both the violent crime rate and the solve rate or clearance rate of those violent crimes across the country and in this State; and

WHEREAS, this State can use that data to better understand what drives both crime and deterrence in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the violent crime rate rose almost eighteen percent (18%) in the ten year period from 2013 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, during that same time period, the rate of homicide offenses more than doubled (110%), the rate of aggravated assault offenses rose thirty percent (30%), the rate of robbery offenses fell by almost a third (31%), and the rate of rape offenses rose seven percent (7%); and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, the rate of violent crimes that went unsolved rose eleven percent (11%); and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the clearance rate was only thirty-nine percent (39%), meaning that sixty-one percent (61%) of violent crimes were unsolved; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 8, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

38-8-401. Short title.

This part is known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Violent Incident Clearance and Technological Investigative Methods Support (TN-VICTIMS) Act."

38-8-402. Findings.

The general assembly finds:

(1) Low clearance rates undermine efforts to hold perpetrators accountable, disrupt cycles of violence, and provide justice to victims;

(2) Agencies within the criminal justice system need additional resources and support to strengthen investigations, apply community problem-solving approaches to violent crime hotspots, and implement programs that blend law enforcement, social services, and community mobilization strategies;

(3) Research shows that enhanced investigative resources, improved management structures, and oversight processes can increase clearance rates and improve the chances that perpetrators are apprehended in even the most difficult cases to clear;

(4) Research also shows that increasing the perceived likelihood of apprehension and punishment is one (1) of the most effective methods to deter crime; and

(5) Therefore, each dollar spent on increasing the likelihood of being arrested for committing a crime will reduce crime rates in this state.

38-8-403. Part definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Academy" means the Jerry F. Agee Tennessee law enforcement training academy, created pursuant to part 2 of this chapter;

(2) "Bureau" means the Tennessee bureau of investigation, created pursuant to chapter 6 of this title;

(3) "Commission" means the Tennessee peace officer standards and training commission, created pursuant to part 1 of this chapter;

(4) "Eligible agencies" means any law enforcement agency or office of a district attorney general in this state; and

(5) "Violent crime" means the same as defined in the federal bureau of investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

38-8-404. Violent crime clearance grants.

(a) Subject to appropriation by the general assembly for this purpose, the department of finance and administration, office of criminal justice programs, in consultation with the commission, the academy, and the bureau, shall develop a grant program for eligible agencies to improve strategies and initiatives aimed at increasing violent crime clearance rates and engagement and support for victims of violent crime.

(b) All eligible agencies that receive funding under this section shall report to the office of criminal justice programs annually on activities carried out using grant dollars during the preceding fiscal year.

38-8-405. Repealer.

This part is repealed on July 1, 2031, unless reenacted or extended by the general assembly prior to that date.

SECTION 2. This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds must not be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.