

SB 1015 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Broadman, Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, McLane, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure directs the Department of Justice to implement a grant program to safeguard communities experiencing disproportionately high rates of violence and sets associated grant criteria.

Detailed Summary:

Grants to prevent community violence

- Defines "community violence" as an intentional act involving a firearm against an individual by someone who is not the individual's family member or intimate partner.
- Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop and implement a program to award grants to community-based organizations, Indian Tribes, and other organizations formed to reduce community violence, not including law enforcement.
- Directs that the grants be used for the purpose of evidence-informed community violence reduction and lists examples of such measures and practices.

Application process, oversight board, and review

- Requires the DOJ to create an oversight board and a grant application process.
- Directs that the oversight board include those impacted by, as well as survivors, experts, and researchers of community violence.
- Sets detailed eligibility criteria for grant recipients.
- Requires grant recipients to report annually their disposition of grants and associated results to the oversight board and requires the oversight board to evaluate and provide feedback.
- Directs the DOJ to publish the grants awarded and results.

Operative and effective dates

- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.
- Sets an operative date of January 1, 2026, and directs the DOJ to implement rules as necessary beforehand.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Similar programs in other states
- Senate Bill 5506 (2023)
- Economic and community impact of gun violence
- Effectiveness and accountability of grant recipients

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Justice defines community violence as violence that "happens between unrelated individuals, who may or may not know each other, generally outside the home. Examples include assaults or fights

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among groups and shootings in public places, such as schools and on the streets.” Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victim and Survivor Services. Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Program, <https://www.doj.state.or.us/crime-victims/grant-funds-programs/community-violence-intervention-program/>.

In 2023, the Oregon legislature enacted Senate Bill 5506, Sect. 276, which appropriated \$10 million to support community-based violence prevention grants. Since that time, the Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division has administered the funds, evaluated grant applications through internally established procedures, and published information regarding the disposition of grants. Senate Bill 1015 (2025) would set additional standards and formalize the existing DOJ community violence intervention grant program in statute.