

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5273

To establish a Gun Safety Board, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a Gun Safety Board, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gun Safety Board and
5 Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GUN SAFETY BOARD.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services shall, not later than 1 year after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, establish a board to be known
10 as the Gun Safety Board.

11 (b) DUTIES.—The Gun Safety Board shall—

1 (1) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
2 actment of this Act, establish a program that uses
3 not less than half of the amounts appropriated
4 under this Act to provide grants that recipients shall
5 use to—

6 (A) conduct original research about fire-
7 arm violence reduction (including research
8 about topics identified for additional research
9 by the Gun Safety Board under paragraph (3));
10 and

11 (B) to educate members of the public
12 about—

13 (i) causes and effects of firearm vio-
14 lence; and

15 (ii) ways to reduce firearm violence;

16 (2) conduct original research about firearm vio-
17 lence reduction; and

18 (3) publish in the Federal Register and on a
19 public website of the Department of Health and
20 Human Services, not less frequently than annually—

21 (A) policy and funding recommendations
22 for potential Federal, State, and local action
23 based on available scientific research about fire-
24 arm violence reduction;

1 (B) a list of subject areas related to fire-
2 arm violence reduction that the Gun Safety
3 Board finds would benefit from additional sci-
4 entific research; and

5 (C) the Gun Safety Board’s findings about
6 the efficacy of existing State and Federal laws
7 intended to reduce firearm violence, and the ex-
8 pected efficacy of proposed State and Federal
9 legislation intended to reduce firearm violence,
10 in reducing—

11 (i) domestic violence;

12 (ii) suicide and attempted suicide;

13 (iii) chronic community violence;

14 (iv) police violence;

15 (v) mass shootings;

16 (vi) hate crimes;

17 (vii) school shootings;

18 (viii) health care-related expenditures
19 (including lost days of work and other indi-
20 rect expenditures) for victims of firearm-
21 caused injuries;

22 (ix) hospital interventions;

23 (x) broader socioeconomic impacts of
24 chronic gun violence;

- 1 (xi) diversions of firearms, including
2 straw purchasing and gun trafficking; and
3 (xii) unintentional shootings.

4 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

5 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Gun
6 Safety Board shall be composed of 22 members ap-
7 pointed by the Secretary of Health and Human
8 Services.

9 (2) COMPOSITION.—The members shall in-
10 clude—

11 (A) 1 member with expertise in public
12 health;

13 (B) 1 member with expertise in mental
14 health care;

15 (C) 1 member with expertise in firearm vi-
16 olence reduction research;

17 (D) 1 member with expertise in trauma
18 surgery;

19 (E) 1 member with expertise in law en-
20 forcement;

21 (F) 1 member with a background in fire-
22 arm manufacturing, firearm sales, professional
23 firearm use, or recreational firearm use;

24 (G) 2 members representing victims of
25 firearm violence;

1 (H) 1 member representing a nonprofit or-
2 ganization that advocates for racial justice;

3 (I) 1 member representing a nonprofit or-
4 ganization that advocates or engages in firearm
5 violence intervention or prevention; and

6 (J) 1 member from each of—

7 (i) the National Institutes of Health;

8 (ii) the Centers for Disease Control
9 and Prevention;

10 (iii) the Substance Abuse and Mental
11 Health Services Administration;

12 (iv) the United States Consumer
13 Product Safety Commission;

14 (v) the Federal Bureau of Investiga-
15 tion;

16 (vi) the Department of Health and
17 Human Services;

18 (vii) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
19 Firearms, and Explosives within the De-
20 partment of Justice;

21 (viii) the Office of Juvenile Justice
22 and Delinquency Prevention within the De-
23 partment of Justice;

24 (ix) the Bureau of Justice Assistance
25 within the Department of Justice;

1 (x) the Office for Victims of Crime
2 within the Department of Justice;

3 (xi) the Office on Violence Against
4 Women within the Department of Justice;
5 and

6 (xii) the National Institute of Justice
7 within the Department of Justice.

8 (d) TERMS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
10 graph (2), each member shall be appointed for a
11 term of 4 years.

12 (2) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As des-
13 ignated by the Secretary of Health and Human
14 Services at the time of appointment, of the members
15 first appointed—

16 (A) three shall be appointed for a term of
17 4 years;

18 (B) two shall be appointed for a term of 3
19 years;

20 (C) two shall be appointed for a term of 2
21 years; and

22 (D) two shall be appointed for a term of
23 1 year.

24 (3) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill
25 a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the

1 term for which the member's predecessor was ap-
2 pointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of
3 that term. A vacancy shall be filled in the manner
4 in which the original appointment was made.

5 (e) BASIC PAY.—Members shall be paid at a rate set
6 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services that is
7 consistent with title 5, United States Code.

8 (f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
9 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
10 in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter
11 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

12 (g) CHAIR.—The Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services shall designate 1 member to serve as chair of the
14 Gun Safety Board.

15 (h) VICE CHAIR.—The members of the Gun Safety
16 Board shall elect 1 member to serve as vice chair of the
17 Gun Safety Board.

18 (i) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at least once
19 each month at the call of the chair.

20 (j) STAFF.—The chair may appoint and, consistent
21 with title 5, United States Code, fix the pay of additional
22 personnel as the chair considers appropriate.

23 (k) FIREARM.—For the purposes of this Act, the
24 term “firearm” shall have the meaning given the term in
25 section 921 of title 18, United States Code.

1 (l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
3 \$5,000,000 for each of the first 2 fiscal years beginning
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
5 \$25,000,000 for each fiscal year thereafter.

6 (m) PROHIBITION ON DIVERSION OF OTHER FED-
7 ERAL GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH FUNDS.—The amounts
8 made available for Federal gun violence research other
9 than under this Act shall not be reduced in order to pro-
10 vide funds to carry out this Act.

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