

SENATE BILL NO. 509 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 479 by Senator Duplessis)

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS AND REPRESENTATIVES BOYD, WILFORD CARTER, CHASSION, FISHER, FREIBERG, GREEN, JACKSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MENA, NEWELL, SELDERS, TAYLOR, THOMPSON AND WILLARD

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:2025, relative to violence prevention in Louisiana; to provide for
3 legislative intent; to provide for review and reporting by the Louisiana Department
4 of Health; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 40:2025 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§2025. Violence prevention**

8 **A. The legislature of the state of Louisiana declares that violence shall**
9 **be recognized and addressed as a public safety and health crisis utilizing a**
10 **public safety and health data-based approach.**

11 **B. The Louisiana Department of Health shall conduct a review of**
12 **violence prevention factors, activities, and strategies, taking into consideration**
13 **the following:**

14 **(1) The specifics of violence, including crimes of violence, gang violence,**
15 **and domestic violence in communities.**

16 **(2) The root causes of violence in the community, which may include**
17 **poverty, lack of quality education, lack of affordable housing, food insecurity,**
18 **unemployment, and untreated trauma.**

19 **(3) Community conditions, which may include a comparison of**
20 **community conditions and opportunities for communities with a high risk of**
21 **violence and those with a lesser risk of violence in order to identify and create**
22 **greater safety for high-risk communities through community surroundings. For**
23 **the purposes of this Section, community surroundings include but are not**
24 **limited to streets, parks, schools, community-based organizations, youth and**
25 **community centers, and places of worship.**

1 (4) A commitment for violence prevention efforts to focus on addressing
2 and healing individual, interpersonal, and community trauma inflicted as a
3 result of violence.

4 C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall prepare a written report
5 to the legislature, no later than February 1, 2026, that provides information and
6 recommendations on the following:

7 (1) The current violence prevention activities occurring across Louisiana
8 state offices to outline the continuum of current activities related to violence
9 prevention.

10 (2) Promotional strategies for supporting conflict resolution and violence
11 prevention-related programs and services.

12 (3) Strategies for incorporating a public safety and health approach to
13 improve social determinants of safety and health for communities most affected
14 by violence.

15 D. The Louisiana Department of Health may coordinate with institutions
16 of higher learning and nongovernmental organizations to collect and evaluate
17 information in developing the recommendations to be presented to the
18 legislature.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____