

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO34

Introduced by Senator Strickland

September 25, 2025

To enhance public safety and reduce crime in California communities by funding evidence-based community policing initiatives, youth crime prevention programs, and targeted public safety infrastructure improvements, with a discretionary appropriation not exceeding ~~\$50 million~~ \$5 million.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 34, as introduced, Strickland. Community Safety and Crime Reduction Act.

Existing law provides for state funding of public safety programs, primarily through local police departments, county sheriffs, and statewide grant initiatives. However, many communities, including coastal and suburban cities, continue to face challenges of rampant property crime, gang activity, and limited resources for crime prevention programs, particularly those aimed at at-risk youth.

This bill would establish the *Community Safety and Crime Reduction Grant Program*, administered by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ). The program would allocate up to ~~\$50 million~~ \$5 million in discretionary funds annually, subject to appropriation in the Budget Act, for local governments, ~~nonprofit organizations~~, and community policing initiatives.

Vote: majority Appropriation: yes Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the *Community Safety and Crime Reduction Act of 2025*.

SEC. 2.

(a) The *Community Safety and Crime Reduction Grant Program* is hereby created within the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), in coordination with the Department of Justice.

(b) Eligible entities include:

(1) Municipal police departments and county sheriff's offices.

(2) Local governments seeking to implement evidence-based crime reduction strategies.

~~(3) Nonprofit organizations providing youth crime prevention, reentry, or restorative justice services.~~

(c) Priority shall be given to applicants serving communities with:

(1) Above-average crime rates relative to ~~county or~~ state averages.

(2) Demonstrated shortages in local policing or crime prevention resources.

(3) A focus on community engagement and collaboration with residents.

SEC. 3.

(a) Funds awarded through the program shall be used for one or more of the following purposes:

(1) Expanding community policing patrols, ~~including foot and bicycle patrols~~, in neighborhoods and business districts.

(2) Supporting youth mentorship, ~~after-school programs~~, and gang prevention initiatives

(3) Installing and maintaining public safety infrastructure, including but not limited to: improved lighting, cameras in high-crime corridors, and emergency response alert systems.

(4) Providing reentry programs and restorative justice initiatives that reduce recidivism.

(b) No more than 10 percent of total funds may be used for administrative costs.

(c) Depending on how many methods local municipalities intend to implement, total funds shall be distributed accordingly at the discretion of Cal OES; once total funds are allotted, local municipalities may balance the funds however they see fit within the given guidelines.

SEC. 4.

(a) The sum of ~~\$50,000,000~~ \$5,000,000 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to Cal OES for the 2025-2026 *and 2026-2027 fiscal years*, to be allocated pursuant to this act.

(b) Funds shall be disbursed through a competitive grant process and subject to annual audit and reporting requirements to the Legislature.

(c) Cal OES shall submit a report to the Senate and Assembly Committees on Public Safety by ~~December 31, 2026~~, *January 30, 2027* that evaluates the effectiveness of the program, including reductions in crime rates, community engagement outcomes, and cost-effectiveness.

(1) If the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Grant Program is, based on the evidence gathered, deemed ineffective, then funds shall be withheld for the 2027-2028 fiscal year, pending decision on a complete cancellation of the program.

(2) If the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Grant Program is, based on the evidence gathered, deemed effective, then funds shall continue to be distributed as such for the 2027-2028 fiscal year, pending following reports on January 30 of successive fiscal years.

(3) If the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Grant Program is, based on the evidence gathered, deemed ineffective during any successive annual reports after the 2027 report, then funds shall be withheld for the following fiscal year, pending a complete cancellation of the program.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.