

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Alondra Esquivel-Garcia, Youth Development Specialist
Youth Commission

FROM: Lisa Lew, Legislative Clerk
Board of Supervisors

DATE: March 30, 2023

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors have received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Shamann Walton on March 21, 2023:

File No. 230328

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 912, The SAFE Act, authored by Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, to reinvest prison closure savings into community crime reduction programs.

If you have any additional comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: bos.legislation@sfgov.org

cc: Joshua Rudy Ochoa, Youth Commission

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 912 (Jones-Sawyer) - The SAFE Act]

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3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 912, The SAFE Act, authored**
4 **by Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, to reinvest prison closure savings into**
5 **community crime reduction programs.**

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7 WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 912 (AB 912), the Strategic Anti-Violence Funding
8 Efforts Act, also known as the SAFE Act, authored by Assembly Member Reggie Jones-
9 Sawyer, will reinvest cost savings from prison closures into programs that reduce violence,
10 provide diversion opportunities, and deliver critical community supports including mental
11 health, education, and vocational services; and

12 WHEREAS, On December 6, 2022, the California Department of Corrections and
13 Rehabilitation (CDCR) announced the closure and deactivation of two additional prisons and
14 with the closure of these facilities, the California Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) estimates
15 an annual cost savings of \$235.3 million; and

16 WHEREAS, Reductions in the prison population are the direct result of the State
17 Legislature’s advancement of sensible legislation and budget items to improve public safety,
18 and advance justice and equity; and

19 WHEREAS, Rather than returning to the General Fund, it is imperative these savings
20 are kept within the State Legislature’s crime prevention budget and reinvested into effective
21 strategies proven to further reduce crime and violence; and

22 WHEREAS, Studies have shown health-based approaches have been successful in
23 curbing violence through applied, skill-based prevention programs and addressing youth
24 mental health and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is crucial in mitigating long-term
25

1 effects, such as substance abuse, mental illness, chronic health problems, and criminality;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Existing programs have been successful in providing crucial resources
4 and early intervention to youth throughout California; and

5 WHEREAS, For instance, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools
6 (CBITS) is a nationally-recognized skills-based group intervention to relieve PTSD symptoms,
7 depression, and general anxiety among children exposed to trauma; Children are taught skills
8 to deal with stress such as relaxation, cognitive restructuring, and social problem-solving; and

9 WHEREAS, Because CBITS has shown consistent success in deterring violence
10 through early intervention, it is crucial that the program is expanded to the top six counties
11 with the highest homicide rates; specifically, CBITS has consistently helped reduce symptoms
12 of depression among students and students who participated earlier in the intervention
13 academically surpassed those who engaged later; and

14 WHEREAS, First established in 2018, the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) provides
15 funds to local agencies and Native American tribes to implement culturally relevant, trauma-
16 informed diversion programs for minors and since then, nearly \$60 million has been
17 committed to agencies and tribes throughout the state, proving to yield effective results; and

18 WHEREAS, For instance, CARAS: Project Evolve's YRG-funded initiative saw a 67%
19 reduction in youth arrests from 2019 to 2021, far exceeding the program's initial 30%
20 reduction goal; and

21 WHEREAS, Further, evidence-based, focused deterrence programs that engage high-
22 risk individuals susceptible to committing violence or reoffending have proven to reduce
23 violence; For example, Oakland's Ceasefire strategy partners local government with
24 community organizations to provide tailored services to support high-risk individuals in
25

1 stepping away from violence and within a five-year span, Oakland experienced a 43%
2 reduction in homicides and a 50% reduction in non-fatal shootings; and

3 WHEREAS, Creating safe spaces during peak times of violence has also played a
4 crucial role in prevention and diversion; for example, the Summer Night Lights, a component
5 of the Gang Reduction & Youth Development (GRYD) Comprehensive Strategy in Los
6 Angeles, provides extended programming, sports leagues, and spaces for recreation,
7 employment opportunities, and access to local resources and as shown with the success of
8 GRYD's Summer Night Lights, recreation and health-based opportunities are an essential part
9 of reinvesting in communities impacted by violence; and

10 WHEREAS, The SAFE Act, is a comprehensive measure reinvests cost savings from
11 prison closures into programs that reduce violence, provide diversion opportunities, and
12 deliver critical community supports including mental health, education and vocational services;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The SAFE Act calls for the reallocation of the \$235 million in annual
15 savings from the proposed closure of two prisons in the 2023-24 state budget and those funds
16 will go to the following programs:

- 17 1) \$50 million annually to relocate the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program from the
18 Board of State and Community Corrections to the Office of Youth and Community
19 Restoration with grants available for local jurisdictions and California tribes for
20 trauma-informed diversion programs for minors;
- 21 2) \$35 million annually to the Department of Justice for the purpose of programs that
22 reduce gang violence and gang involvement, modeled after successful programs
23 like Ceasefire in Oakland that resulted in a 43% reduction in homicides and a 50%
24 reduction in non-fatal shootings;

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- 1 3) \$50 million annually to the State Department of Public Health, in consultation with
2 the State Department of Education, to provide operational grants to School-based
3 Health Centers and provide health and mental health services to children on school
4 sites;
- 5 4) \$50 million annually to the California Health and Human Services Agency to support
6 a pilot program for Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS)
7 in Alameda, Fresno, Merced, Tulane, Kern and Los Angeles; this program supports
8 early trauma-informed interventions for school-aged children experiencing extreme
9 traumatic events in support of their health, well-being and community stability;
- 10 5) \$50 million annually to the Department of Parks and Recreation in support of grants
11 to local governments and community-based organizations to create new parks and
12 fund recreation and health-based opportunities during peak times of violence; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports California
15 Assembly Bill No. 912 and urges the California State Legislature to pass this bill to reinvest
16 cost savings from prison closures into programs that reduce violence, provide diversion
17 opportunities, and deliver critical community supports including mental health, education, and
18 vocational services; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
20 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the California Senate President pro Tempore
21 Toni Atkins, California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, California Public Safety
22 Committee Chair and the Bill's primary sponsor Assembly Member Reginald Jones-Sawyer,
23 California Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Chris Holden, and Governor Gavin
24 Newsom.