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## Proposed plan takes aim at violent crime

**Annie McCallum**  
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**Capital News Service -- Del. Franklin P. Hall**, D-Richmond, wants to do something different about violent crime in Virginia.

Hall's **Violent Crime Reduction Program**, which he has introduced as a budget amendment, would bring state and local governments together to combat crime. Hall believes his plan is just the innovation that the commonwealth and its localities need to reduce violent crime.

The program would target the 10 cities and 10 counties with the highest violent crime rate. These cities and counties would be invited to apply for the grant.

"This is an opportunity to come together over a shared priority - cutting crime," Hall said. "There are areas all over the country that have been successful in reducing crime because they have been innovative in their approach to fighting it."

Cities and counties that receive funding could use it for projects aimed at preventing or reducing crime. Hall estimates that \$4 million to \$5 million would be given annually to the program.

The program would mark a new partnership between state and local resources. **Cassandra Burns**, the commonwealth's attorney in Petersburg, is hopeful about Hall's plan. Petersburg has one of the highest violent-crime rates in Virginia.

"Violent crime tears at the fabric of our community," she said. "It is my hope that with this partnership with the state communities like Petersburg can look forward to finding innovative ways to improve the safety of our neighborhoods."

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