

HB 137: VIOLENT CRIME CLEARANCE RATE FUND

HB 137 creates a Violent Crime Clearance Rate Fund to help Utah law enforcement agencies solve more violent crimes and strengthen public safety. By directing resources toward evidence-based investigative strategies, the bill focuses on what research shows matters most: increasing the likelihood that violent offenders are identified and apprehended. Improving clearance rates delivers justice for victims, reinforces deterrence, and makes communities safer without relying solely on increased incarceration.

THE ISSUE

Utah's violent crime clearance rate has hovered around 53 percent since 2019, meaning nearly half of violent crimes result in no arrest. Even with a homicide clearance rate above the national average, more than one in four murders go unsolved. Low clearance rates weaken deterrence, erode public trust, and leave victims and families without accountability. These outcomes are not due to lack of effort, but to resource constraints that limit investigative capacity.

THE SOLUTION

HB 137 establishes a dedicated fund for targeted, research-backed investments that improve investigative outcomes. The bill supports hiring and retaining investigators and crime analysts, upgrading forensic tools, and strengthening victim and witness support. Its grant structure ensures departments of all sizes can participate while enabling rigorous evaluation to identify and scale the most effective practices statewide.

QUICK FACTS

- 1.) Utah's violent crime **clearance rate** has been **53%** since 2019
- 2.) Nearly **1 in 2** violent crimes result in **no arrest**
- 3.) Certainty of apprehension is the **strongest deterrent** to crime