

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2847 (Chiu and Gabriel)
As Amended May 7, 2020
Majority vote

SUMMARY:

Requires commencing July 1, 2022 all semiautomatic pistols not already listed on the Department of Justice (DOJ) roster of not unsafe handguns be equipped with chamber load indicators, magazine disconnect mechanisms, and microstamping technology.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires commencing July 1, 2022 for all semiautomatic pistols that are not already listed on the DOJ roster of not unsafe handguns, be designed and equipped with a microscopic array of characters that identify the make, model, and serial number of the pistol, etched or otherwise imprinted in one or more places on the interior surface or internal working parts of the pistol, and that are transferred by imprinting on each cartridge case when the firearm is fired.
- 2) Requires commencing July 1, 2022 for all semiautomatic pistols that are not already listed on the DOJ roster of not unsafe handguns be equipped with a chamber load indicator and a magazine disconnect mechanism if it has a detachable magazine.
- 3) Provides that the DOJ shall, for each newly added semiautomatic pistol added to the roster of not unsafe handguns, remove from the roster exactly three semiautomatic pistols lacking a chamber load indicator, magazine disconnect mechanism, or microstamping technology. Each semiautomatic pistol removed from the roster shall be considered an unsafe handgun. The Attorney General (AG) shall remove semiautomatic pistols from the roster in reverse order of their date of addition to the roster.
- 4) Contains numerous Legislative findings and declarations.

COMMENTS:

According to the Author:

"This bill strengthens California's Unsafe Handgun Act (UHA) to ensure that new firearms are introduced that incorporate microstamping technology and comply with the UHA's other safety requirements.

"AB 2847 eases compliance by requiring that newly developed semiautomatic pistol models etch microstamping characters on one place on the interior of the firearm, as opposed to two as currently required. Additionally, AB 2847 furthers implementation of the new UHA requirements by directing the Attorney General to remove three previously grandfathered handgun models from the roster for each new compliant handgun model that is introduced.

"Microstamping technology will significantly improve law enforcement's ability to identify shooters and gun traffickers, apprehend them before they do more harm, and hold them accountable. Incorporating other UHA design safety standards in more handguns sold in California would also help prevent accidental shootings.

Arguments in Support:

Brady United Against Gun Violence states, "The gun industry has acknowledged that microstamping is entirely feasible, but has maintained that it is not possible to microstamp two separate places on the interior of the firearm as is the current mandate under the Unsafe Handgun Act (UHA). Although it is entirely practicable to have two engravings, it is not necessary. One engraving on the firing pin of a firearm reliable provides law enforcement the available and necessary information concerning the gun. AB 2847 therefore eases this requirement by mandating that newly developed semiautomatic pistol models engrave microstamping characters on just one place on the interior of the firearm, the firing pin, as opposed to two. Gun manufacturers can easily and affordably comply with this mandate as well as the other important UHA quality and safety standards.

"Additionally, AB 2847 furthers implementation of the UHA requirements by directing the Attorney General to remove three previously grandfathered handgun models from the roster of certified handguns that may be manufactured and sold in California, for each new compliant handgun model that is introduced. This will guarantee a progressive movement towards ensuring that one day all firearms in California will be in compliance with the important and life-saving standards outlined in the UHA.

"In short, the microstamping mandate in AB 2847 will significantly improve law enforcement's ability to identify shooters and gun traffickers, apprehend them before they do more harm, and hold them accountable. Also, AB 2847 will ensure that more, and eventually all, handguns sold in CA will comply with the other important UHA design safety standards on a rolling basis. These standards work to prevent unintentional shootings and will protect California consumers."

Arguments in Opposition:

The *California Sportsman's Lobby* argues, "AB 2847 would substantially reduce the number of 'not unsafe' pistols presently available to California sportsmen to buy, is opposed by the California Sportsman's Lobby.

"It would do so, commencing July 1, 2022, by requiring that new pistols added to the states, 'not unsafe' handgun roster possess microstamping technology in centerfire pistols that would imprint the make, model, and serial number in one place on empty cartridge casings from ammunition discharged from the pistol; a chamber load indicator for centerfire semiautomatic pistols; and, a magazine disconnect feature that would prevent discharge of the firearm if its detachable magazine is removed for both centerfire and rimfire semiautomatic pistols.

"The bill would require the removal of three models of semiautomatic pistols now on the roster of 'not unsafe' handguns if they lack one or more of the above features each time a new model is added.

"The models currently on the roster are popular, not unsafe, and should continue to be available to sportsmen and other lawful individuals regardless of whether new models are added. If the new models that comply with the requirements of AB 2847 are added to the roster, the current list of pistols that sportsmen and others can buy will eventually be reduced by two-thirds, even though such models are not unsafe."

FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 1) One-time costs (GF/Dealer Record of Sale Fund) of between \$150,000 and \$300,000 for DOJ to draft and accept public comment on new regulations related to new Roster requirements and changes to the microstamping technology requirements.
- 2) Costs (GF) possibly in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 and annually thereafter for DOJ to test firearms for microstamping ability and inclusion on the Roster. Costs will depend on the number of firearms submitted to DOJ for microstamp testing. If only a few firearms are submitted to DOJ annually, costs will be absorbable. However, if dozens or hundreds of firearms are submitted, DOJ will likely need additional staff to test firearms for microstamping capacity.

VOTES:**ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 6-1-1**

YES: Jones-Sawyer, Bauer-Kahan, Kamlager, Carrillo, Santiago, Wicks

NO: Lackey

ABS, ABST OR NV: Diep

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 13-4-1

YES: Gonzalez, Bauer-Kahan, Bloom, Bonta, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Eggman, Gabriel, Eduardo Garcia, Petrie-Norris, McCarty, Robert Rivas

NO: Bigelow, Megan Dahle, Fong, Voepel

ABS, ABST OR NV: Diep

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