
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1127 (Gabriel) - Firearms: converter pistols

Version: July 3, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 4 - 1, JUD. 11 - 2

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary: AB 1127 prohibits licensed firearms dealers from selling any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate the civil and criminal penalties in this bill. Defendants are constitutionally guaranteed certain rights during criminal proceedings, including the right to a jury trial and the right to counsel (at public expense if the defendants are unable to afford the costs of representation). Increasing penalties leads to lengthier and more complex court proceedings with attendant workload and resource costs to the court. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the numbers of people charged with an offense and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. This is a conservative estimate, based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.
- Unknown, potentially significant costs (local funds, General Fund) to the counties to incarcerate people for the crime created by this bill. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail varies by county, but likely ranges from \$70,000 to \$90,000 per year. For example, in 2021, Los Angeles County budgeted \$1.3 billion for jail spending, including \$89,580 per incarcerated person. Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) estimates a fiscal impact of \$40,000 or less (General Fund). DOJ notes that implementation of this bill will be dependent upon the appropriation of funds. The DOJ will be unable to absorb the costs to comply with or implement the requirements of the bill within existing budgeted resources. DOJ also indicates that the estimated expenditures for this bill cannot be funded from the Dealers' Record of Sale (DROS) Account. Current revenues are insufficient to cover the increased cost of this bill. As such, a General Fund appropriation would

be required to support the costs of this bill. In order to implement the mandates of this bill, the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE), Bureau of Firearms would require the following resources in FY 2025-26.

- 40 overtime hours for one Crime Analyst (CA) III in the Regulatory Compliance Unit (RCU) to advise and assist with the regulation amendment;
- 80 total overtime hours for two Field Representatives in the RCU to update procedure manuals and inspection documents (BOF 938, BOF 938a, etc.) with the new requirements specified;
- 44 total overtime hours twenty-two (22) Field Representatives in the RCU to provide training to recognize semiautomatic machine-gun convertible pistols; and,
- 166 total overtime hours for four Associate Governmental Program Analysts (AGPA) in the Legislation Unit to modify forms, letters, and regulation updates.

DOJ further notes that the BOF would also require a one-time funding in FY 2025-26 for 57 Deputy Attorney General (DAG) hours to provide consultation and review in drafting regulation changes and consultation during the updates of procedure manuals and inspection documents, at a rate of \$228 per hour. In addition, the Legal Unit within DOJ's Office of General Counsel would be responsible for preparing regulation packages. The Unit's workload is anticipated to increase in FY 2025-26 as follows:

- Supervising Deputy Attorney General: 40 hours;
- Deputy Attorney General: 120 hours; and,
- Associate Governmental Program Analyst: 40 hours.

Background: According to Everytown for Gun Safety, the sponsors of this bill, "DIY machine guns are a growing threat to public safety. Fully automatic machine guns have been illegal under federal and state law for decades, but they can be made at home by attaching a tiny piece of plastic or metal commonly known as a "Glock switch" to a convertible pistol."

Proposed Law:

- Defines the following:
 - "Machinegun-convertible pistol" as any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools, into a machinegun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter as a replacement for the slide's backplate without any additional engineering, machining, or modification of the pistol's trigger mechanism. A machinegun-convertible pistol does not include a hammer-fired semiautomatic pistol or

striker-fired semiautomatic pistol lacking a cruciform trigger bar, which instead has a trigger bar that is shielded from interference by a pistol converter; and,

- “Pistol converter” as any device or instrument that when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, replaces the backplate, and interferes with the trigger mechanism and thereby enables the pistol to shoot automatically more than one shot by a single function of the trigger. A pistol converter includes, but is not limited to, a pistol converter manufactured using a three-dimensional printer, as defined in Section 29185.
- Prohibits, except as provided specified, commencing on January 1, 2026, a licensed firearms dealer from selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring, or delivering any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol. A violation shall be punishable by:
 - A fine of not more than one \$1,000 for a first violation;
 - A fine of not more than \$5,000, the suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license issued, and removal of the firearms dealer from any centralized list maintained by the Department of Justice for a second violation; and,
 - As a misdemeanor, revocation of the dealer’s license, and removal of the firearms dealer from any centralized list maintained by the Department for any third or subsequent violation.
- Authorizes the Department of Justice is authorized to adopt regulations to implement these provisions and provides that they are exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act.

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