
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1127
Author: Gabriel (D) and Stefani (D), et al.
Amended: 9/9/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 4-1, 7/1/25

AYES: Arreguín, Gonzalez, Pérez, Wiener

NOES: Seyarto

NO VOTE RECORDED: Caballero

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 11-2, 7/15/25

AYES: Umberg, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Wahab,
Weber Pierson, Wiener

NOES: Niello, Valladares

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 8/29/25

AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-17, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Firearms: converter pistols

SOURCE: Everytown for Gun Safety; Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

DIGEST: This bill prohibits, commencing July 1, 2026 licensed firearm dealers from selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring, or delivering any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified.

Senate Floor Amendments of 9/9/25 delay implementation to July 1, 2026, resolve chaptering conflicts, authorize DOJ to issue regulations, and exempt specified handguns that are modified to remove machinegun-convertability and meet other criteria from certain requirements regarding “not unsafe” handguns.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the “Firearm Industry Responsibility Act” (hereinafter, “FIRA”) which allows for civil actions to be brought against firearm industry members who deal in abnormally dangerous firearm-related products. (Civil Code (Civ. Code), § 3273.50 et seq.)
- 2) Provides that a firearm industry member must comply with the firearm industry standard of conduct; and it shall be a violation of the firearm industry standard of conduct for a firearm industry member to fail to comply with any requirement below:
 - a) A firearm industry member shall do both of the following:
 - i. Establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls.
 - ii. Take reasonable precautions to ensure that the firearm industry member does not sell, distribute, or provide a firearm-related product to a downstream distributor or retailer of firearm-related products who fails to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls.
 - b) A firearm industry member shall not manufacture, market, import, offer for wholesale, or offer for retail sale a firearm-related product that is likely to create an unreasonable risk of harm to public health and safety, as provided.
 - c) A firearm industry member shall not engage in any conduct related to the sale or marketing of firearm-related products, as specified. (Civ. Code, § 3273.51, subds. (a)-(d).)
- 3) Defines “reasonable controls” following for the purposes of FIRA, as reasonable procedures, acts, or practices that are designed, implemented, and enforced to do the following:
 - a) Prevent the sale or distribution of a firearm-related product to a straw purchaser, a firearm trafficker, a person prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a person who the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe is at substantial risk of using a firearm-related product to harm themselves or another or of possessing or using a firearm-related product unlawfully.

- b) Prevent the loss or theft of a firearm-related product from the firearm industry member.
 - c) Ensure that the firearm industry member complies with all provisions of California and federal law and does not otherwise promote the unlawful manufacture, sale, possession, marketing, or use of a firearm-related product. (Civ. Code, § 3273.50, subds. (c), (f), (g), (h).)
- 4) Generally prohibits the sale, lease or transfer of firearms by any person unless they have been issued a license by the Department of Justice (DOJ), and establishes various exceptions to this prohibition. (Penal Code (Pen. Code), §§ 26500 – 26625.)
 - 5) Provides that a license to sell firearms is subject to forfeiture for any violation of a number of specified prohibitions and requirements, with limited exceptions. (Pen. Code, § 26800, subd. (a).)
 - 6) Includes several exemptions from the requirement that transfers go through a licensed dealer, including for the transfer of a firearm by bequest or intestate succession, or to a surviving spouse, or transfers by a person acting pursuant to operation of law, a court order, or pursuant to other specified laws. (Pen. Code, §§ 26505, 26515.)
 - 7) Provides that where neither party to a firearms transaction holds a dealer's license (i.e. a "private party transaction"), the parties shall complete the transaction through a licensed firearms dealer. (Pen. Code, § 27545.)
 - 8) Requires that in connection with any sale, loan or transfer of a firearm, a licensed dealer must provide the DOJ with specified personal information about the seller and purchaser as well as the name and address of the dealer. This personal information of buyer and seller required to be provided includes: the name; address; phone number; date of birth; place of birth; occupation; eye color; hair color; height; weight; race; sex; citizenship status; and a driver's license number; California identification card number; or, military identification number. A copy of the Dealer's Record of Sale, containing the buyer and seller's personal information, must be provided to the buyer or seller upon request. (Pen. Code, §§ 28160, 28210, & 28215.)
 - 9) Establishes various crimes related to the sale, lease or transfer of firearms, including a prohibition on the sale or transfer of a firearm that is not serialized, as provided. (Pen. Code, §§ 27500 et. seq., 27530.)

- 10) Requires the DOJ to participate in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and specifies the process DOJ must follow in notifying various parties that a prospective firearm purchaser is prohibited from acquiring a firearm under state or federal law. (Pen. Code, § 28220.)
- 11) Provides that a person in this state who manufactures or causes to be manufactured, imports into the state for sale, keeps for sale, offers or exposes for sale, gives, or lends an unsafe handgun, as defined, shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, and that other specified violations may be punished by specified civil penalties. (Pen. Code, § 32000, subd. (a).)
- 12) Defines “firearm” for most provisions of the Penal Code related to firearms as a device, designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled through a barrel, a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion. (Pen. Code, § 16520, subd. (a).)
- 13) Provides that for numerous specified provisions, the definition of “firearm” includes the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver or firearm precursor part. (Pen. Code, § 16520, subd. (b).)
- 14) Establishes what firearms fall into the category of “assault weapons” and generally prohibits the purchase, sale, possession and transfer of such weapons. (Pen. Code, §§ 30500 et. seq.)
- 15) Defines “multiburst trigger activator” as either of the following:
 - a) A device designed or redesigned to be attached to, built into, or used in conjunction with, a semiautomatic firearm, which allows the firearm to discharge two or more shots in a burst by activating the device.
 - b) A manual or power-driven trigger activating device constructed and designed so that when attached to, built into, or used in conjunction with, a semiautomatic firearm it increases the rate of fire of that firearm. (Pen. Code, § 16930, subd. (a).)
- 16) Provides that any person who manufactures or causes to be manufactured, imports into the state, keeps for sale, or offers or exposes for sale, or who gives,

lends, or possesses any multiburst trigger activator is guilty of a misdemeanor or felony, as provided. (Pen. Code, § 32900.)

- 17) Defines “machinegun” as any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can readily be restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger, and specifies that the term also includes the following:
 - a) The frame or receiver of any weapon described immediately above, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.
 - b) Any weapon deemed by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as readily convertible to a machinegun under specified provisions of federal law. (Pen. Code, § 16880.)
- 18) Provides that any person, firm, or corporation, who within this state possesses or knowingly transports a machinegun, except as authorized, is guilty of a felony, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 32625, subd. (a).)
- 19) Provides that any person, firm, or corporation who within this state intentionally converts a firearm into a machinegun, or who sells, or offers for sale, or knowingly manufactures a machinegun, except as authorized, is guilty of a felony, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 32625, subd. (b).)
- 20) Sets forth a definition of “unsafe handgun” for both revolvers and pistols, which applies to the provisions listed below:
 - a) A revolver meets the definition of “unsafe handgun” if it 1) does not have a safety device that causes the hammer to retract to a point where the firing pin does not rest upon the primer of the cartridge, 2) does not meet the firing requirements for handguns, as specified, or 3) does not meet the drop safety requirement for handguns.
 - b) A pistol meets the definition of “unsafe handgun” if 1) it does not have a positive manually operated safety device, as specified, 2) it does not meet the firing requirement for handguns, 3) it does not meet the drop safety requirement for handguns, 4) it does not have a chamber load indicator, 5) it does not have a magazine disconnect mechanism if it has a detachable

magazine, or 6) it is not designed and equipped with a microscopic array of characters used to identify the pistol, as specified (see more below). (Pen. Code § 31910, subds. (a), (b).)

- 21) Requires DOJ, on and after January 1, 2001, to compile, publish, and thereafter maintain a roster listing all of the pistols, revolvers, and other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person that have been tested by a certified testing laboratory, have been determined not to be unsafe handguns, and may be sold in this state, as specified. The roster shall list, for each firearm, the manufacturer, model number, and model name. (Pen. Code, § 32015, subd. (a).)
- 22) Requires that every handgun manufactured, imported, or offered for sale in this state shall be tested within a reasonable period of time by an independent laboratory certified by the DOJ prior to being deemed “not unsafe.” (Pen. Code, § 32010.)

This bill:

- 1) For the purposes of liability under FIRA, expands the definition of “reasonable controls” to include reasonable procedures, acts or practices that are designed, implemented and enforced to prevent the installation and use of a pistol converter with a firearm.
- 2) Defines the following terms:
 - a) “Machinegun-convertible pistol” means any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools, as defined, 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.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. A polymer notch or other piece of polymer molded into the rear of the pistol frame does not prevent ready conversion into a machinegun and will not prevent a pistol from qualifying under this definition.

- b) “Pistol converter” means 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.
- 3) Expands the existing definition of “machinegun” to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter.
- 4) Provides that commencing January 1, 2026, a licensed firearms dealer shall not sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol.
- 5) Imposes the following penalty schedule for a violation of the above prohibition:
 - a) A first offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.
 - b) A second offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 and may result in the suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license.
 - c) A third violation is a misdemeanor and shall result in the revocation of the dealer’s license.
- 6) Exempts the following from the prohibition against the transfer of machinegun-convertible pistols:
 - a) A machinegun-convertible pistol delivered to a firearms dealer prior to January 1, 2026.
 - b) The sale of a machinegun-convertible pistol to any of the following entities for lawful use in the discharge of their official duties:
 - i. A police department, sheriff’s office, probation department, marshal’s office, district attorney’s office, the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Justice, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
 - ii. Specified state agencies that are exempt from existing restrictions on the purchase of unsafe handguns.
 - iii. The military or naval forces of the United States.

- c) A private party to private party transaction conducted through a licensed firearms dealer.
 - d) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to a gunsmith or other qualified entity for service or repair.
 - e) The sale or transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to a firearms dealer or to federally licensed firearms manufacturers or dealers outside California.
 - f) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol back to a private party after temporary safekeeping storage, as specified.
 - g) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol back to a private party after a period of temporary prohibition.
 - h) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to any forensic laboratory or forensic laboratory employee, while on duty and acting within the scope and course of employment.
 - i) The sale of a machinegun-convertible pistol to an individual who is an active peace officer or a reserve peace officer who is employed or appointed by a law enforcement agency and is authorized to carry a firearm on duty.
- 7) Provides that a pistol may be added to the roster of “not unsafe” handguns without being subject to the chamber load indicator (CLI) and magazine disconnect mechanism (MDM) requirements if all of the following conditions are met:
- a) The pistol was listed on the roster as of January 1, 2026.
 - b) The pistol was “grandfathered” onto the roster and thus was not required to meet the CLI and MDM requirements.
 - c) The pistol was thereafter modified to change the design features which brought it within the definition of “machinegun convertible pistol.”
 - d) The new pistol is submitted for lab testing pursuant to existing law prior to January 1, 2027.

8) Authorizes DOJ to promulgate regulations to implement the bill.

9) Includes a severability clause.

Comments

For a more in-depth discussion of this bill's provisions, please see the analysis prepared by the Senate Committee on Public Safety.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 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.
- Unknown, potentially significant costs (local funds, General Fund) to the counties to incarcerate people for the crime created by this bill.
- 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.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/8/25)

Everytown for Gun Safety (co-source)

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (co-source)

Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (co-source)

Brady California

Brady Campaign

California Democratic Party

California Department of Justice

California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma
Chapman University Students Demand Action
City of Alameda
City of Goleta
City of Oakland
City of Perris, Mayor Michael Vargas
City of San Rafael
City of Santa Rosa
City of West Hollywood
City of West Sacramento
Consumer Protection Policy Center at the University of San Diego School of Law
County of San Diego
Equality California
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
Hispanic Federation
Monte Vista Students Demand Action
Newtown Action Alliance
North County San Diego Students Demand Action
Occidental College Students Demand Action
Prosecutors Alliance of California
San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention
Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
UCLA Students Demand Action
The Chamberlain Network
Vet Voice Foundation
40 faith leaders from across California
6 California mayors
50+ Individuals

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/8/25)

Gun Owners of California, INC.
National Rifle Association
1 Individual

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-17, 6/3/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal,

McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Stefani, Valencia, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alanis, Michelle Rodriguez, Soria, Ta

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
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**** **END** ****