

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1127 (Gabriel and Stefani)

As Amended September 9, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Prohibits a licensed firearms dealer from selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring, or delivering any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, and would provide for escalating punishments for violations of this law.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Provide rules for the rostering and testing of firearms under this bill, including:
 - a) A pistol may be submitted for testing without being subject to the chamber load indicator and magazine disconnect requirements, as specified, if all of the following conditions are met:
 - i) The pistol was listed on the roster, as described, on January 1, 2026.
 - ii) The pistol was not subject to the chamber load indicator and magazine disconnect requirements because it was submitted for testing before the dates identified.
 - iii) The pistol was thereafter only modified to change design features which brought the pistol within the definition of machinegun-convertible pistol in the defined section.
 - iv) The modified pistol is submitted to an independent certified laboratory for testing, as specified, before January 1, 2027.
 - b) Any firearm meeting the requirements of this section shall be removed from the roster, as specified, on the same timeline as the pistol that appeared on the roster prior to being modified pursuant to this section.
- 2) Authorize the California Department of Justice to adopt regulations to implement defined sections.
- 3) State that a firearms dealer shall not sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, as defined, commencing on July 1, 2026.
- 4) Define a pistol converter to include, but is not limited to, a pistol converter manufactured using a three-dimensional printer, as defined.
- 5) Provide that firearms restrictions in this bill do not apply to defined entities "for lawful use in discharge of their duties."
- 6) State that firearms restrictions in this bill do not apply to probation departments.
- 7) Establish that firearms restrictions in this bill do not apply to any state agency, as specified.
- 8) Provide that the sale of a machinegun-convertible pistol does not apply to the military or naval forces of this state or of the United States.

- 9) Establish that the sale of a machinegun-convertible pistol does not apply to defined entities, an individual who is an active peace officer or a reserve peace officer, as defined, who is employed or appointed by a law enforcement agency, as specified, and is authorized to carry a firearm on duty.
- 10) Double-joints this bill with AB 1263 (Gipson) in order to avoid chaptering issues.
- 11) Make other technical and nonsubstantive alterations.

COMMENTS

As passed by the Assembly: This bill prohibited a licensed firearms dealer from selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring, or delivering any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, and would provide for escalating punishments for violations of this law.

Major Provisions

- 1) Made unlawful the sale, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or delivery of any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol by a licensed firearms dealer, as defined.
- 2) Provided for punishment by a fine of up to \$1,000 for a first offense.
- 3) Provided for punishment by a fine of up to \$5,000 and discretionary suspension or revocation of a dealer's license for a second offense.
- 4) Provided for punishment by a misdemeanor and mandatory revocation of a dealer's license for a third offense.
- 5) Established that the prohibition on semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistols does not apply to a convertible pistol manufactured or delivered prior to January 1, 2026, the sale of a convertible pistol to a police department, sheriff's office, marshal's office, district attorney's office, the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Justice, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or the military or naval forces of this state or of the United States for use in the discharge of their official duties, or a private party to private party transaction conducted through a licensed firearms dealer, as defined.
- 6) Established additionally that the prohibition on semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistols does not apply to: A transfer to a gunsmith or other qualified entity for service or repair, sale or transfer to a firearms dealers licensed, as defined, or to federally licensed firearms manufacturers or dealers outside California, a transfer of a firearm back to a private party after temporary safekeeping storage, as defined, a transfer of a firearm back to a private party after a defined period of temporary prohibition, and a transfer to any forensic laboratory or forensic laboratory employee, while on duty and acting within the scope and course of employment.
- 7) Defined "pistol converter" to mean 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 discharge a number of shots or bullets rapidly or automatically with one continuous pull of the trigger.

- 8) Defined "machinegun-convertible pistol" to mean any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools, as defined in 11 C.C.R. 4082, into a machinegun solely 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.
- 9) Provided that machinegun-convertible pistols do not include hammer-fired semiautomatic pistols or striker-fired semiautomatic pistols lacking cruciform trigger bars, which instead have trigger bars that are shielded from interference by a pistol converter.
- 10) Stated that 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.
- 11) Expanded the definition of "reasonable controls" to mean reasonable procedures, acts, or practices that are designed, implemented, and enforced to prevent the installation and use of a pistol converter with a firearm, as defined.
- 12) Included severability provision in the law.

According to the Author

"The increased prevalence of automatic weapons across the nation is deeply concerning. We all agree that machine guns have no place in our communities, yet a select few gun manufacturers refuse to address a deadly design flaw with their guns that allows them to be converted into dangerous automatic weapons. Assembly Bill 1127 seeks to protect communities from mass shootings and gun violence by preventing easy conversion of semi-automatic firearms to fully automatic machine guns. Most handguns designs don't have this flaw, and this legislation will ensure the limited number of gun manufacturers who refuse to address this begin to do their part to keep deadly automatic weapons off our streets."

Arguments in Support

According to *Vet Voice Foundation*, "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 commonly known as a "Glock switch" to a convertible pistol.

"Glock, and other gunmakers who have copied Glock's designs, do not make Glock switches, but manufacture their pistols in a way that makes them uniquely easy to convert into illegal machine guns at home. Glock has known about this problem for years, but has not taken responsibility for its easily convertible products and instead has refused to take serious action to fix its design. When the firearm industry refuses to take action to prevent tragedies, California lawmakers must act by prohibiting the sale of dangerous convertible pistols.

"Shootings committed with these modified, fully automatic Glocks and Glock clones are significantly more deadly, since they allow shooters to spray bullets with a single pull of the trigger, endangering bystanders. In 2022 — right here in Sacramento — a Glock pistol converted into a machine gun was used during a gun battle that killed six and injured twelve. Officers recovered over 110 shell casings at the scene.

"California law prohibits the devices used to convert pistols into machine guns, and is now taking further steps to address the pistols that are easily able to accept those devices. As long as California gun dealers are selling pistols that can quickly and easily be turned into machine guns solely by adding these plastic conversion devices, this public safety threat will continue."

Arguments in Opposition

According to *Gun Owners of California*, "On behalf of Gun Owners of California, I am writing to express my strong opposition to Assembly Bill 1127, which seeks to ban so-called "convertible pistols" by expanding California's already excessive firearm restrictions. By redefining semi-automatic pistols as "convertible" simply because they could hypothetically be modified, AB 1127 sets a dangerous precedent for future gun bans and further erosion of Second Amendment rights.

"AB 1127 operates as a veiled ban on Glock handguns and dozens of its clones, one of the most widely used and trusted firearm brands in the world. Glocks are carried by law enforcement, military personnel, and responsible civilians across the country due to their reliability and ease of use. By specifically targeting the potential for modification, this bill disproportionately affects potential Glock purchasers and restricts access to one of the most popular handguns available, further demonstrating that this legislation is not about safety but about incremental firearm prohibition.

"California's restrictive handgun roster already prevents the sale of modern Glock models that are designed to be incompatible with so-called "Glock switches," yet AB 1127 further punishes legal firearm purchasers by limiting their choices while criminals will continue to operate without regard for the law. Ironically, California is now scrambling to fix a problem of its own making—blocking access to modern, safer handgun models and then blaming legal gun owners for the consequences. Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge that nearly all semi-automatic pistols could theoretically be considered a "convertible pistol" making their definition overly broad and unenforceable.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) 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.

- 2) 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).
- 3) 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.
 - a) 40 overtime hours for one Crime Analyst (CA) III in the Regulatory Compliance Unit (RCU) to advise and assist with the regulation amendment;
 - b) 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;
 - c) 44 total overtime hours twenty-two (22) Field Representatives in the RCU to provide training to recognize semiautomatic machine-gun convertible pistols; and,
 - d) 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:

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

VOTES:**ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 7-1-1**

YES: Schultz, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

NO: Lackey

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis

ASM JUDICIARY: 9-2-1

YES: Kalra, Bauer-Kahan, Bryan, Connolly, Harabedian, Pacheco, Lee, Stefani, Zbur

NO: Macedo, Sanchez

ABS, ABST OR NV: Dixon

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-2-2

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

NO: Dixon, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez, Ta

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 58-17-4

YES: 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

NO: Castillo, Chen, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Gallagher, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Tangipa, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alanis, Michelle Rodriguez, Soria, Ta

UPDATED

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