
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1344 (Irwin) - Restrictions on firearm possession: pilot project

Version: June 23, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Liah Burnley

Bill Summary: AB 1344 would create a pilot program that authorizes district attorneys in the counties of El Dorado, Santa Clara, and Ventura to petition the court for Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs).

Fiscal Impact: Unknown costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate additional GVRO petitions in the pilot counties and to provide the Department of Justice (DOJ) with required copies of court orders. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the number of petitions filed and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. 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.

Background: According to materials provided by the author, "Current rates of GVRO use across California remain low, despite efforts to expand the universe of community members who are authorized to petition for them, increase awareness among that universe, and standardize the required forms to submit to the courts. Legal expertise in the form of representation by an attorney has been successful in San Diego in increasing the number of GVROs requested and issued. District Attorneys have more resources and staff to offer in requesting GVROs, but are prevented from doing so as they are not on the authorized list of petitioners. When supported by sworn affidavits of law enforcement, District Attorneys would be in an ideal position to effectively petition for GVROs and attend subsequent court hearings on extensions of prohibitions."

Proposed Law:

- Authorizes the following counties to establish, until January 1, 2032, a pilot program to authorize a district attorney to file a petition for a GVRO:
 - County of Alameda;
 - County of El Dorado;
 - County of Santa Clara; and,
 - County of Ventura.

- Requires the district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program to, commencing April 1, 2027, annually submit data regarding the pilot program to the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis. The data submitted shall include all of the following:
 - The number of petitions filed and the outcome of the petitions, if any;
 - Demographic data for the restrained individuals;
 - The reasons that the petition was filed; and,
 - Areas of success and areas for improvement in subsequent years.
- Provides that the center may conduct an evaluation of a pilot program's impact and effectiveness. If the center conducts an evaluation of a pilot project, the evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, the data described above.
- States that the center may, commencing on or before July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, submit the evaluation to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Public Safety. If the center conducts an evaluation of more than one pilot program, the center may combine the evaluations into a comprehensive report and may submit the report, commencing on or before July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, to the Assembly and Senate Committees on Public Safety.
- Requires a district attorney of a county that establishes a pilot program, commencing April 1, 2027, to make the data available upon request to the Department of Justice and the Judicial Council.
- Sunsets on January 1, 2034.

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