

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1615 (Nguyen)

As Amended May 18, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes a peace officer employed by a county probation department to use a non-rostered handgun as a service weapon if the county probation employee has satisfied defined training requirements.

Major Provisions

- 1) Exempts county probation department personnel from the prohibition on the sale or purchase of a non-rostered handgun (i.e., a handgun not on the California Department of Justice's (DOJ) safe handgun roster) for use as a service weapon, if the handgun is sold to, or purchased by, a county probation department for use by, or sold to or purchased by, sworn members of the department who have satisfactorily completed the firearms portion of a training course prescribed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).
- 2) Requires that a county probation department member, as a condition of carrying a non-rostered handgun, complete a live-fire qualification prescribed by their employing entity at least once every three months.

COMMENTS**According to the Author**

According to the author, "AB 1615 restores and adds clarity pertaining to probation's existing inclusion in Penal Code 32000 which authorizes probation officers to use non-roster handguns, similar to other law enforcement and as currently authorized, ensuring officers have the necessary tools for officer and community safety, interoperability, task force collaboration in emergency situations, and in carrying out their duties.

"Penal Code 32000 already sets forth the state exemptions for authorized peace officers to purchase non-roster handguns. Legislation in 2020, AB 2699 (Santiago) [Chapter 289, Statutes of 2020] made changes to this section that inadvertently impacted the language around probation's use of these firearms. Probation officers undergo the same firearms training as other peace officers through [Penal Code] (PC) 832, which includes the firearms and arrest modules from the POST Basic Academy. Additionally, probation departments complete live-fire qualifications on a quarterly basis."

Arguments in Support

According to one of the bill's sponsors, the *Chief Probation Officers of California*, "On behalf of the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), we are pleased to co-sponsor AB 1615,

which would restore clarity around the language regarding the use of non-roster handguns by probation peace officers.

"Penal Code 32000 sets forth the state exemptions for authorized peace officers to purchase non-roster handguns in their peace officer capacity. Non-roster firearms are only available for purchase by law enforcement departments and are designed to address the needs and practices of a peace officer performing their duties including functionality around the most up to date technology, aspects that can be individualized to the officer, and other functions important in emergency situations.

"In 2016, AB 2165 (Bonta) [Chapter 640, Statutes of 2016] was enacted and, among other provisions, authorized specified peace officers, which included probation, who have completed the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) prescribed firearms training course as required in Penal Code 832, to be exempt from the state prohibition relating to the sale or purchase of a non-roster firearm.

"As stated in the AB 2165 analysis ... "These categories of peace officers participate in mutual aid situations, task forces, sting operations and arrests—all high-risk situations require that these officers be properly armed. It is imperative that we provide the statutory basis for the parity between agencies that has existed since the creation of the roster."

"In 2020, AB 2699 (Santiago) was enacted which changed requirements for all peace officers to complete the POST basic course, rather than the longstanding requirements that peace officers complete the statutorily required and POST certified PC 832 firearms and arrest course and inadvertently did not reflect the training that probation completes both through POST PC 832 but also training through the BSCC STC program.

"Probation officers undergo the same firearms training as other law enforcement officers through PC 832, which includes the firearms and arrest modules from the POST Basic Academy. Additionally, probation departments complete live-fire qualifications on a quarterly basis.

"Departments often use a certain model of a firearm as it contributes to uniformity in training. Further, some counties purchase and train on the same firearm so that when there are instances such as an active shooter incident, fires, evacuations, and other emergency response efforts, officers are trained and can use firearms interchangeably. The interoperability, training, and specific functionality of non-roster firearms becomes critical in situations where probation is responding to an incident, serving in mutual aid coordination, or serving in taskforces with other law enforcement.

"This proposal would restore clarity and language pertaining to Probation's existing inclusion in Penal Code 32000 list of state exemptions for all authorized peace officers to purchase non-roster handguns while maintaining all of the other applicable requirements around non-roster use that currently exist."

Arguments in Opposition

None submitted.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, "This bill would result in one-time costs to the Department of Justice (DOJ) of a likely minor and absorbable amount."

VOTES

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 9-0-0

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Wilson

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: May 18, 2026

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