

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1743 (Wicks) – As Introduced February 5, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 7 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make identification and tracing information for illegal firearms recovered during criminal investigations available for academic and policy research to local governments, state agencies, and California public universities in a format conducive to the requestor's needs.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs of \$600,000 to DOJ (General Fund) ongoing annually. DOJ reports needing to hire one new permanent analyst in the Firearms Records Unit within the Division of Law Enforcement to collaborate with the Office of General Counsel. This analyst will be responsible for receiving and processing firearm and ammunition data requests, acting as the subject matter expert, and consulting, performing research and queries, and formatting and validating the data for accuracy. The Division of Law Enforcement anticipates needing ongoing funding for deputy attorney general consultation relating to crime gun data requests. Additionally, the Office of General Counsel will need to promulgate regulations to implement the bill, and coordinate with DOJ for proper implementation. The Office of General Counsel anticipates significant increases in workload, necessitating two additional full-time positions, as well as additional deputy attorney general support from the DOJ.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year beginning in the 2027-28 fiscal year.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

The State has invested significant resources into a robust database of information about guns that have caused harm in our communities. That data is powerful, and allowing our trusted partners in local government and higher education to request it will give them one more tool to end gun violence.

2) **Background.** Existing law requires law enforcement agencies to enter recovered, misplaced, or surrendered firearm data in the DOJ Automated Firearms System (AFS) within seven days of becoming notified of the information. DOJ must analyze the data collected for identification of patterns or trends and keep the data for at least 10 years. The scope and

amount of data collected is vast: it includes data related to firearms purchases, ammunition purchases, background checks, background check results, and dealer inspections, including “staffing levels” for inspections and “the number of hours spent to complete the inspection.” That data may be used for criminal investigations, identification of patterns relating to unlawful firearms conduct, directing resources to disproportionately impacted communities and regions, and internal systems improvement. AB 1743 would attempt to expand the uses for public safety data the DOJ already collects, pursuant to current law, by permitting state agencies, municipalities, and universities to receive this data for academic and policy research purposes. Opposition from advocates for gun owners raises concerns that this bill could enable biased research aimed at infringing Second Amendment rights.

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