

Date of Hearing: May 13, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1810 (Berman) – As Amended March 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 7 - 2

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to remove from the centralized list of approved firearms dealers any dealer who fails to comply with licensure requirements or to remedy inspection violations within 90 days, and requires DOJ to annually inspect the 10 firearm dealer locations with the highest percentage of sales of firearms recovered by law enforcement.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Converts DOJ's existing discretionary authority to delist non-compliant dealers into a mandatory duty.
- 2) Requires delisting of dealers who fail to remedy inspection violations within 90 days and establishes a two-year ineligibility period for delisted persons to own, operate, or be employed by a firearms or ammunition business.
- 3) Requires annual DOJ inspections of the 10 dealer locations with the highest percentage of firearms recovered by law enforcement as illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected of being used in a crime, provided each location is the source of at least 20 such firearms.
- 4) Requires DOJ to assess a reasonable annual fee to cover the cost of maintaining the centralized dealer list, with annual fee adjustments not to exceed 15 percent year-over-year and not to exceed actual costs.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- 1) Ongoing costs to DOJ's Bureau of Firearms (Dealer Record of Sale Special Account) to conduct the 10 mandatory annual inspections of high-volume crime-gun dealer locations, monitor 90-day compliance remedies, and administer the delisting process. The bill's removal of the \$115 statutory fee cap and authorization of fee adjustments up to 15% annually is intended to enable cost recovery through dealer fees, which, if fully implemented, would minimize General Fund exposure. To the extent that fee increases are constrained by the 15% annual cap or that actual costs exceed fee revenue, DOJ may require General Fund backfill or absorption within existing resources. The DOJ was unable to provide a cost estimate at the time this analysis was written, but costs will likely exceed \$150,000.
- 2) Likely minor, absorbable workload costs to the trial courts (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) for actions by delisted dealers challenging DOJ removal decisions or the two-year ineligibility period.

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:

California's firearm laws lead the nation, and when firearm dealers break these laws, they must take the proper steps to remedy violations, or risk losing their authorization. AB 1810 will ensure the firearm industry in California is following our gun safety laws and clarify the California Department of Justice's authority to shut down irresponsible dealers who are endangering the lives of Californians by breaking the law. In addition, AB 1810 addresses the crime gun epidemic by requiring the California Department of Justice to annually inspect the top 10 dealer locations where the highest percentage of firearms that were illegally possessed or used in a crime are being sold.

2) **Background.** Under existing law, DOJ maintains a centralized list of persons licensed to sell firearms and has discretionary authority to remove from the list any person who knowingly or with gross negligence violates specified requirements. DOJ conducts inspections of all dealers at least once every three years. Existing law authorizes DOJ to assess an annual fee not to exceed \$115 per dealer to cover the cost of maintaining the list and conducting inspections. The Assembly Public Safety Committee analysis cites DOJ data indicating that crime guns are concentrated among a small subset of dealers. According to the analysis, a DOJ report identified 82 dealers associated with roughly half of all crime guns traced in California, and a UC Davis study of crime gun data from 2010 to 2021 found that 10% of federal firearms licensees account for 95% of crime guns recovered and traced. From 2020 to 2024, DOJ field representatives recorded 41,602 inspection violations, of which approximately 85% were resolved.

This bill makes DOJ's delisting authority mandatory rather than discretionary in specified circumstances, requires DOJ to conduct annual targeted inspections of the 10 highest-volume crime-gun dealer locations within 12 months of the DOJ crime gun report, and adjusts the fee structure to allow cost-recovery increases capped at 15% annually.

3) **Related Legislation.** SB 15 (Blakespear), of the current legislative session, requires DOJ's sampling of dealer records to include at least 25% of each record type and would also have authorized DOJ to periodically increase the inspection fee, as specified. SB 15 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 1420 (Berman), Chapter 245, Statutes of 2023, authorized the DOJ to conduct inspections and assess a fine for any violation of provisions relating to regulation of those licenses, for violations of specified provisions regulating the sale of secondhand firearms.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Shiran Zohar / APPR. / (916) 319-2081