

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 1810 (Berman)

As Amended May 18, 2026

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to delist a licensed firearms dealer who fails to comply with the requirements to be on the approved dealers list and to conduct a yearly inspection of the 10 firearm dealer locations with the highest percentage of firearms that were found by law enforcement to be illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected to have been used in a crime, as specified.

**Major Provisions**

- 1) Requires DOJ to inspect the 10 dealer locations with the highest percentage of firearms discovered by law enforcement to have been involved in criminal conduct, as defined, where the firearms have a time to crime of less than a year for the most recently reported calendar year.
- 2) States that DOJ shall remove from their centralized list of approved firearms dealers a person who fails to remedy violations discovered as a result of an inspection, within 90 days of the inspection, as provided.
- 3) Establishes that a person removed from the centralized list, as defined, shall be subject to a fine and shall be ineligible to be placed on the centralized list for a period of two years from the date of removal.
- 4) Makes ineligible for two years a person who has been removed from the centralized list to own or operate a business selling firearms or ammunition, or be employed by a firearms dealer or ammunition vendor.
- 5) Provides that dealers shall provide a certificate of eligibility for all employees, who are required to have a certificate of eligibility, upon request of any peace officer, authorized law enforcement employee, or DOJ employee designated by the Attorney General, upon the presentation of proper identification during the course of an inspection.
- 6) Requires DOJ to conduct an inspection of the 10 firearm dealer locations with the highest percentage of total sales of firearms that were recovered by law enforcement and found to be illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected to have been used in a crime, as described.
- 7) States that a firearm dealer location shall only be inspected, as specified, if it is reported to be the source of no fewer than 20 firearms that were illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected to have been used in a crime.
- 8) Requires firearms dealer inspections to occur within 12 months after the release of a specified report. DOJ may forego an otherwise required inspection if the location has been inspected within six months prior to the release of the report.

- 9) States that a dealer found to have committed a violation of the defined requirements shall remedy the violation within 90 days of the inspection and submit proof of that remedy to DOJ.
- 10) Establishes that a fee adjustment, used to cover the cost of maintaining the centralized dealer list, shall not exceed 15% over the previous year and shall not exceed the amount necessary to cover costs.
- 11) Requires DOJ to assess a "reasonable" annual fee to maintain the centralized dealer list, including that the fee adjustment shall not exceed 15% over the previous year and shall not exceed the amount necessary to cover costs.
- 12) Defines "time to crime" as the length of time between when a firearm was last in the possession of, or reported stolen by, the dealer, as applicable, and the date the weapon was recovered by law enforcement and found to be illegally possessed, used in crime, or suspected to have been used in crime.
- 13) Removes provision that would have required delisting for minor licensing violations.
- 14) Makes other conforming changes.

## COMMENTS

### According to the Author

"Where the federal government falls short, California is ready to step up and take the lead, especially when it comes to preventing gun violence. 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."

### Arguments in Support

According to one of bill's sponsors, *Giffords*, "The bill seeks to ensure firearms dealers are held accountable by increasing scrutiny of dealers with the highest percentage of sales that end up being used in crimes and explicitly authorizing the Department of Justice to temporarily remove from its centralized list of approved dealers those who fail to remedy violations of California's laws.

"While California overall has the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, it nonetheless still faces a big problem with gun trafficking. Recently, researchers at the University of California at Davis conducted a study ("the UC Davis study") of the records for over 380,000 crime guns recovered by law enforcement. They documented a dramatic increase over the decade from 2010 to 2021 in both firearm purchasing and recoveries of crime guns. According to these researchers, the number of crime guns recovered in the state per capita has grown by close to 70% over the last decade.

"According to the UC Davis study, the number of firearms recovered shortly after purchase—a significant indicator that a gun has been trafficked—has also grown significantly. In particular, the percentage of handguns recovered in a violent crime within one year of purchase has tripled, and the median “time-to-crime” (time between the gun's last purchase and its recovery) for handguns recovered in violent crime dropped from 15 years to 4 years. The reduction in time to crime has continued. Between 2021 and 2023, over half of the firearms recovered in crimes traced back to a dealer were recovered in less than three years. These statistics show that, despite the state’s overall strong gun laws, gun trafficking is still a significant problem that endangers California communities.

*"AB 1810's Main Provisions*

"DOJ Authority to Remove Dealers From Centralized List: Effective oversight of the gun industry is a cornerstone of preventing gun violence—including regulating gun dealers and holding the industry accountable for irresponsible practices. AB 1810 clarifies that the California Department of Justice has the authority to temporarily remove dealers who violate state firearms dealer licensing laws or fail to remedy violations discovered through DOJ inspections within 90 days. The explicit authority to remove dealers gives the Department of Justice a critical enforcement tool that will help ensure that dealers who violate California's laws, and do nothing to correct problems, cannot operate in our state for 2 years. This allows California to squarely step into the void left by the ATF's repeated failure to revoke licenses, despite recommendations from its own agents to do so.

"Importantly, the vast majority of dealers follow the law and when they have violations, they correct them. From 2020 to 2024, Department of Justice field representatives inspecting California licensed dealers recorded 41,602 violations. As of Department of Justice crime gun report released in July of 2025, at least 35,382 (85%) of those violations were resolved. The policy goal is to push the small percentage of dealers who do not take corrective action toward compliance.

"Repeat Inspections for Dealers with Higher Rates Sales that are used in Crimes: Inspections of gun dealers are crucial to ensuring compliance with the law. The bill would require the DOJ to inspect the 10 firearm dealer locations with the highest percentage of sales that end up as crime guns annually. By requiring the DOJ to inspect the dealers who supply the highest percentages of crime guns, this bill will ensure that the DOJ is effectively using the resources it has available for gun store inspections.

"In its landmark report on crime guns in 2023, the Department of Justice found that although 344 licensed gun dealers were associated with only one crime gun, 82 dealers were associated with roughly half of all crime guns (38,230 firearms). The highest number of crime guns associated with one dealer was 1,652. That trend continued in the DOJ's most recent report on crime guns, with 87 dealers accounting for roughly half of crime guns. The UC Davis study agrees. It found that 10% of federal firearms licensees (FFLs) account for 95% of crime guns, and 15% of FFLs account for 98% of crime guns.

"Moreover, from 2020 to 2024, the DOJ conducted 870 inspections of 802 firearms dealers and ammunition vendors. The DOJ found that during the one-year prior to their inspection of the 802 dealers, 612 had zero crime gun association.<sup>16</sup> In addition, of the 736 inspected dealers by the DOJ's Bureau of Firearms, only 66 had recorded violations due to missing/unaccounted firearms.

"When crime guns are recovered and traced back to an identified dealer, is concentrated among a select group of dealers. In a tight budget environment, it makes sense to focus resource use on inspecting dealers who are the source of the greatest number of traced firearms. These inspections will ensure that dealers comply with the law and improve their business practices to reduce the number of firearms used in crimes." (Citations Omitted)

### **Arguments in Opposition**

According to the *California Rifle and Pistol Association*, "This bill amends Penal Code Sections 26715, 26720, 28460, and 29055 to expand the Department of Justice's authority over the centralized list of licensed firearms dealers. It would require the DOJ to remove dealers from the list not only for failing to maintain required state and federal licenses, but also for failing to remedy unspecified violations discovered during inspections within 90 days. Removed dealers would face fines and a two-year ban on being relisted, owning or operating a firearms business, or even being employed in the firearms industry. The bill further mandates annual inspections of the ten dealer locations with the highest percentage of firearms later recovered in crimes (based on trace data), while adjusting inspection and list-maintenance fees to a vague "reasonable annual fee" with a 15% annual cap.

"While CRPA supports legitimate oversight of firearms dealers to ensure compliance with existing law, AB 1810 grants the DOJ overly broad, discretionary power to shut down or disqualify dealers based on subjective or minor compliance issues. The two-year employment and business ban is an extreme collateral consequence that goes far beyond what is necessary for public safety and risks putting responsible, law-abiding dealers out of business over paperwork errors, record-keeping technicalities, or good-faith disputes during audits. Targeting dealers based on crime-gun trace statistics unfairly penalizes retailers in high-crime areas or those serving lawful customers whose firearms may later be stolen or misused by criminals—without any requirement that the dealer itself engaged in illegal activity.

"California already maintains one of the most heavily regulated firearms industries in the nation, with strict licensing, record-keeping, background check, and inspection requirements. Adding layers of bureaucratic punishment and expanded DOJ discretion will reduce the number of compliant dealers, drive up costs for consumers, and limit access to lawfully owned firearms for self-defense, hunting, and sport shooting. This does little to address actual criminal firearm trafficking while burdening the rights of law-abiding citizens and small businesses.

"CRPA urges the Committee to reject AB 1810. We stand ready to provide additional information or testimony from our members who rely on licensed dealers at the hearing."

### **FISCAL COMMENTS**

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

- 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.

## **VOTES**

### **ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 7-2-0**

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

**NO:** Alanis, Lackey

### **ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-4-0**

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

**NO:** Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

## **UPDATED**

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