
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1810 (Berman) - Firearms: dealer centralized list

Version: June 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 4 - 2

Mandate: No

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: AB 1810 would require the Department of Justice to conduct a yearly inspection of the ten firearm dealer locations with the highest percentage of firearms that were recovered by law enforcement and found to be illegally possessed or used in a crime. The bill would require DOJ to delist non-compliant firearms dealers and would adjust the federal firearms license fee by removing a statutory cap and authorizing a percentage adjusted fee.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated \$280,000 in FY 2026-27, \$400,000 in FY 2027-28, \$370,000 in FY 2028-29 annually, ongoing to conduct firearm dealer inspections and maintain records. (Dealer' Record of Sale Special Account, General Fund)

Background: Federal law requires firearms dealers to obtain a license (FFL) through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. To obtain a state firearms dealer license in California, in addition to obtaining a federal FFL, other requirements include obtaining any required local licenses, a certificate of eligibility issued by the DOJ verifying that a background check has taken place and being recorded on the DOJ's centralized list of firearms dealers. In California, only individuals that have obtained a valid license through the DOJ may lawfully sell, lease or transfer firearms within the state, subject to limited exceptions.

The DOJ is required to maintain a centralized list of all active, licensed firearm dealers, and is authorized to remove dealers from that list for a number of specified reasons, including for having their FFL revoked, failing to provide certification of a working video surveillance system, or violating any of a number of dealer requirements.

Existing law requires the DOJ to conduct inspections of licensed firearms dealers at least once every three years to ensure compliance with any and all existing requirements to which they are subject. Moreover, dealer inspections must include an audit of dealer records that includes a sampling of at least 25% but no more than 50% of each record type.

DOJ is authorized to collect fees from both firearm dealers and purchasers to recover costs associated with the implementation and management of California's firearms laws. With regard to dealers, the DOJ may collect fees for the issuance (\$71) and renewal (\$22) of certificates of eligibility, for the maintenance of the centralized list (\$20), and to cover the costs of conducting inspections (\$90). Existing law provides that the total amount that may be charged to a dealer recover costs related to maintaining the centralized list and conducting inspections is \$115. Existing law also authorizes DOJ to charge certain FFLs an additional fee for being in a specialized category of licensees, such as an annual fee of \$115 for FFLs that qualify for an exemption from specified

dealer requirements, and an annual fee not to exceed \$250 for licensed firearm manufacturers that produce fewer than 500 firearms in a calendar year. These fees provide cost recovery for the management of centralized lists exclusive to these specialized classes of licensee

Proposed Law: This bill would do the following:

- Authorize DOJ to remove from the centralized list of firearms licensees a person who fails to comply with the prerequisite conditions for obtaining a firearms dealer license.
- Authorize DOJ to remove from the centralized list of firearms licensees a person who fails to remedy violations discovered as a result of an inspection within 90 days of the inspection.
- Provide that a person removed from the centralized list pursuant to its provisions 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.
- Prohibit a person who has been removed from the centralized list from owning, operating, or being employed by a firearms dealer or ammunition vendor for a period of two years.
- Require DOJ to conduct an inspection of the 10 firearm dealer locations with the highest percentage of total sales that were recovered by law enforcement that have a “time to crime” of less than one year for the most recent year reported although a firearm dealer location shall only be inspected if it is reported to be the source of no fewer than 20 crime guns.
- Defines “time to crime” as the length of time between when a firearm was last in possession of, or reported stolen by, the dealer, and the date the weapon was recovered by law enforcement and found to be illegally possessed, used in a crime, or suspected to have been used in a crime.
- Provide that the inspections shall occur within 12 months after the release of DOJ’s annual crime guns report, though DOJ may forgo an inspection of a location if it had been inspected within 6 months prior to the release of the report.
- Provide that a dealer found to have committed a violation of specified firearm dealer requirements shall remedy the violation within 90 days of the inspection and submit proof of that remedy to DOJ.
- Strike existing law capping the annual fee that may be charged to licensees to cover the costs of maintaining the centralized list and conducting inspections at \$115 and authorize the DOJ to instead impose a fee adjustment of no more than 15 percent over the previous year, provided that the fee does not exceed the amount necessary to cover costs.

- Strike existing law capping the annual fee that may be charged to cover costs of maintaining the centralized list of exempted FFLs, conducting inspections, and maintaining the firearm shipment verification number system at \$115, and authorize the DOJ to impose a fee adjustment of no more than 15 percent over the previous year, provided that the fee does not exceed the amount necessary to cover specified costs.
- Provide that the fees collected by DOJ cover the costs of the program granting licenses for the manufacture of firearms shall be reasonable.
- Strike the language capping the fee for licensed manufacturers who produce fewer than 500 firearms in a calendar year at \$250 and provides that the fee shall be reasonable.

Related Legislation: SB 15 (Blakespear) 2025, would have required DOJ to annually inspect the 10 firearm dealer locations with the highest percentage of total sales that were recovered by law enforcement. The bill proposed modifying DOJ's fee authority with regard to dealers. That bill was held under submission in this committee.

SB 1038 (Blakespear), 2024, would have, among other things, required the DOJ to inspect the 25 firearm dealer locations that are the source of the highest gross number of crime guns in the previous year. That bill was held under submission in this committee.