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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### AB 1943 (Gipson) - Pupil safety: notifications: firearms

**Version:** March 23, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** June 15, 2026

**Policy Vote:** ED. 7 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill revises the existing notice requirements related to safe firearms storage by requiring the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop and post model language for a Secure Firearm Storage Notice to be issued annually by local educational agencies (LEAs) to the parents and guardians of enrolled pupils.

**Fiscal Impact:** The CDE estimates annual General Fund costs of \$177,000 and one new position to comply with the bill's requirements. Any costs to the Department of Justice are likely to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

**Background:** Existing law requires LEAs to annually provide parents or guardians of enrolled pupils with information related to state laws on firearm storage and child access prevention, as developed by the CDE. The law also establishes immunity from civil liability for LEAs, private schools, and the CDE for any damages arising out of these notifications.

Existing law requires the CDE to develop and maintain several resources on their public-facing website, including best practices pertaining to school shooter or other armed assailant drills.

**Proposed Law:** This bill requires the CDE, in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ), on or before July 1, 2027, to develop and post on its internet website, model language for a Secure Firearm Storage Notice. It requires that the notice contain specified information, including a description of the risks of children accessing unsecured firearms in the home and information and resources about the importance of secure firearm storage for preventing youth firearm suicide and preventing children and teens from accessing guns and bringing them to school.

This bill requires LEAs to inform the parents or guardians of each enrolled pupil of the importance of practicing secure firearm storage in all homes in which firearms are present by annually issuing the Secure Firearm Storage Notice noted above.

This bill requires the CDE, in consultation with the DOJ, on or before July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to update the model language to reflect any change in law or Uniform Resource Locators. It also requires the CDE, on or before July 1, 2027, to provide formatting and content options for LEAs to post the notice on their respective internet websites and for posting other relevant information and resources about secure firearm storage using other internet-based communication, as specified.

This bill encourages LEAs to share information within the Secure Firearm Storage Notice with school communities through easily accessible mediums, including but not limited to internet-based communications such as the LEA's internet website, any social media used by the LEA, and other digital and non-digital communications.

This bill requires the CDE to encourage each LEA to adopt a policy and practice of providing the Secure Firearm Storage Notification to parents, guardians, and caregivers when otherwise providing notice to parents, guardians, or caregivers of disciplinary actions or supports given related to threats against other pupils or threats of self-harm. It also requires the CDE to update existing best practices materials developed for use by LEAs pertaining to school shooter or other armed assailant drills, to additionally include the distribution of the Secure Firearm Storage Notice when providing advanced notice of a drill to parents and guardians of pupils.

This bill requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to include the Secure Firearm Storage Notification model language in its existing annual notice to LEAs encouraging middle, junior high, and high schools to provide suicide prevention training to each school counselor at least one time while employed as a counselor, as specified.

**Related Legislation:** AB 452 (Friedman, Chapter 199, Statutes of 2022) requires LEAs to provide notification to parents of each student about California's child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms, and requires the CDE to develop model language for this notification in consultation with the DOJ.

SB 906 (Portantino, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2022) requires LEAs to annually provide information to parents or guardians about California's child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms.

**Staff Comments:** This bill is intended to establish a standardized and streamlined pathway for LEAs to meet the existing notice requirements under current law by requiring the CDE to provide model language for a Secure Firearm Storage Notice that is written in plain language and provides updated information on resources parents and guardians can use to help prevent youth firearm suicide and prevent children and teens from accessing guns and bringing them to school. According to the author, "AB 1943 strengthens and modernizes California's school-based secure firearm storage notifications, so they reflect our updated legal standards and focus on the very real risks of unsecured firearms. Too often, tragedies involving children—whether school shootings, unintentional shootings, or youth suicide—are preventable. Research shows that simply locking and securing firearms can significantly reduce these devastating outcomes. AB 1943 ensures that information provided through our schools is not only updated, but more visible and actionable for parents and caregivers. By expanding how schools share secure storage information, including posting it on district websites and digital platforms, we increase the likelihood that families will see and engage with these critical safety messages. Secure firearm storage is one of the most effective steps we can take to protect children and prevent avoidable tragedies. I introduced AB1943 because we know that secure firearm storage saves lives—and we must do more to ensure families have clear, accessible, and timely information about their responsibilities under the law."