

Date of Hearing: March 17, 2026

Counsel: Dustin Weber

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Nick Schultz, Chair

AB 1948 (Ramos) – As Introduced February 13, 2026

As Proposed to be Amended in Committee

SUMMARY: Extends the duration of a concealed carry firearms license from two years to three years for individuals, except as specified.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes that a concealed carry firearms permit issued by designated local officials is valid for two years from the date of the license, excluding the process for amending a license for an applicant's change of address, as defined. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (a).)
- 2) States that if a licensee's place of employment or business was the basis for issuance of a license, the license is valid for any period of time not to exceed 90 days from the date of the license, the license shall be valid only in the county in which the license was originally issued, the licensee shall give a copy of this license to the licensing authority of the city, county, or city and county in which the licensee resides, and the licensing authority that originally issued the license shall inform the licensee verbally and in writing in at least 16-point type of this obligation to give a copy of the license to the licensing authority of the city, county, or city and county of residence. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (b).)
- 3) Requires that any application to renew or extend the validity of, or reissue, the license may be granted only upon the concurrence of the licensing authority that originally issued the license and the licensing authority of the city, county, or city and county in which the licensee resides. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (b).)
- 4) Provides that a concealed carry firearms license or license renewal, to carry a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person, shall be issued or reissued by the sheriff upon proof submitted by the licensee, as defined. (Pen. Code, § 26150.)
- 5) Provides that a concealed carry firearms license or license renewal, to carry a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person, shall be issued or reissued by the chief or other head of a municipal police department of any city or city and county upon proof submitted by the licensee, as defined. (Pen. Code, § 26155.)
- 6) Authorizes a person issued a license to apply to the licensing authority for an amendment to the license to add or delete authority to carry a firearm, authorize a person to carry a firearm, authorize the licensee to carry loaded and exposed in only that county a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person, and change any restrictions or conditions on the license, including restrictions as to the time, place, manner, and

circumstances under which the person may carry a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person. (Pen. Code, § 26215, subs. (a)(1)-(4).)

- 7) Provides that if the licensing authority amends the license, a new license shall be issued to the licensee reflecting the amendments. (Pen. Code, § 26215, subd. (b).)
- 8) States that an amendment to the license does not extend the original expiration date of the license and the license shall be subject to renewal at the same time as if the license had not been amended. (Pen. Code, § 26215, subd. (c).)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Author's Statement:** According to the author, “The current process for CCW licenses issuance creates significant and reoccurring costs for gun owners and additional workload on county resources which could otherwise support other essential public safety priorities. By extending the duration of these permits, we help reduce administrative costs for local governments and ease the financial strain on law abiding gun owners.”
- 2) **Effect of the Bill:** AB 1948 would authorize concealed carry weapon (CCW) licensure duration of three years for individuals, beginning January 1, 2027.

By extending the licensure duration, there could be longer-term benefits to processing efficiency by a reduction over time in the number of license and renewal applications received each year. Administrative processing burdens may be eased by extending the license duration period. While the initial period of license applications may be overwhelming due to pent up demand and applicants who want to immediately take advantage of the longer permitting cycle, it could also create longer-term efficiencies and consistency in the application cycle.

Extending the licensure duration may help ease the financial burden on applicants and could in the long term improve permit processing times. Some counties, like San Francisco and San Diego, are still experiencing long application cycles.¹

We have witnessed a recent example at the federal level of issues that can be created by distorted application cycles producing pent up demand, which then produce significant application backlogs. At the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the United States State Department faced an unprecedented collapse in demand for passports as the Department initially declined to issue passports except in life or death emergencies² and the stay-at-home

¹ See, e.g., Coakley, *How to obtain a Concealed Carry Weapons permit in San Diego County* (Apr. 5, 2025) Fox 5 San Diego <<https://fox5sandiego.com/news/local-news/how-to-obtain-a-concealed-carry-weapons-permit-in-san-diego-county/>>, McCoy, *San Francisco Sheriff “Blames Budget Cuts” for CCW Renewal Failures, Issues Public Apology* (Dec. 2, 2025) USA Carry <<https://www.usacarry.com/san-francisco-sheriff-blames-budget-cuts-for-ccw-renewal-failures-issues-public-apology/>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

² Karimi, *The US is not Issuing Passport Unless it’s a Life-or-Death Family Emergency* (Apr. 3, 2020) CNN <<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/us-passport-emergencies/index.html>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

orders across most of the country depressed demand for passports.³ Like passports, concealed carry licenses are issued by government agencies and generally require processing time to make individualized determinations of whether the document will be issued. Following the rescission of stay-at-home orders, pent up demand for travel caused Americans to apply for passports in record numbers.⁴ This caused enormous backlogs, which produced much higher-than-average wait times for passports to be processed.⁵ It took until December 2023 for the Department to get control of the backlog and its processing times back to normal.⁶

Longer license renewal periods should help affordability for applicants, but it is unclear whether extending license durations ultimately will improve application cycle processing times.

- 3) **Permitting Schemes and Bruen:** This bill would extend the concealed carry license period from two years to three years beginning in 2027.

One study noted, “As of January 1, 2024, 27 states have laws allowing people to carry concealed weapons without first receiving a permit . . . Twenty-three states and the District of Columbia require permits but have shall-issue laws, under which law enforcement agencies have no or very limited discretion to deny concealed-carry permits to citizens who are otherwise permitted to possess handguns.”⁷

License renewal times and costs vary widely by state. Idaho, for example, charges \$20 for an initial permit and \$15 for permit renewal with discretion to the Sheriff to charge for fingerprinting and materials for the license.⁸ New permits in Wisconsin require a \$40 permit fee and mandatory training.⁹ The initial application for a concealed carry permit in San Jose, California totals \$1,443, which includes over \$400 in State fees, a mandatory psychological evaluation, and required completion of a training course.¹⁰ Depending on the type of license, renewal times and costs can have large variations. To use relatively consistent examples, Idaho counties typically take at least 90 days to process a concealed carry permit,¹¹

³ Hansler, *Passport Backlog: Americans face Months-long wait as State Dept. Deals with Flood of Applications* (July 15, 2021) CNN <<https://6abc.com/passport-backlog-delays-us-passports-summer-travel/10889029/>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Coleman, *Unprecedented Demand* (May 2024) State Magazine <<https://statemag.state.gov/2024/05/0524feat02/>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *The Effects of Concealed Carry Laws* (July 16, 2024) RAND <<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/concealed-carry.html>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

⁸ *Concealed Weapons License Reciprocity*, Idaho State Police <<https://isp.idaho.gov/bci/cwl-reciprocity/>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

⁹ *Concealed Carry Weapon Information*, State of Wisconsin Department of Justice <<https://www.wisdoj.gov/Pages/PublicSafety/concealed-carry-weapon-license-information.aspx>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

¹⁰ *Permit Fees* (Mar. 11, 2023) City of San Jose Police Department <<https://www.sjpd.org/records/fees/permit-fees>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

¹¹ *Concealed Weapons License Application*, State of Idaho <<https://isp.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/BCI/Reciprocity/Training/CWL-Application.pdf>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

Wisconsin completes its process within 21 days,¹² while the process can take six months or more in Placer County, California.¹³

The differences between California's costs and processing times compared to other states and counties can appear stark, however, California is home to approximately 40 million people, compared to the approximately 2 million in Idaho and 6 million in Wisconsin.¹⁴ Idaho and Wisconsin combined only have 20% of the population of California alone.¹⁵ While this bill does not make any changes to the fee structure of California's permitting program, AB 1948 could make licenses more affordable due to the reduction in cost on a per-year basis afforded by extending the validity of licenses for one year.

High fees and lengthy processing times risk contravening the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Bruen*, which established the Second Amendment right to publicly carry a firearm. (*New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* (2022) 597 U.S. 1.) A full evaluation under *Bruen* would not be as relevant here, compared to other firearms bills, because the burden of the law is not really placed on those who want to exercise their Second Amendment rights. (*Id.* at p. 20.) Yet, because this bill would impact Second Amendment conduct and the Court has suggested shall-issue permitting schemes are presumptively valid, AB 1948 would impact some of *Bruen*'s commands.

In *Bruen*, the Court noted, "because any permitting scheme can be put toward abusive ends, we do not rule out constitutional challenges to shall-issue regimes where, for example, lengthy wait times in processing license applications or exorbitant fees deny ordinary citizens their right to public carry." (*Id.* at p. 30, fn. 9.) There has been some improvement, especially among more populous California counties, in shortening processing times, but many applicants still encounter both long wait times and high fees. Santa Clara County is reported to take more than a year to issue a permit while charging residents nearly \$2,000 in total costs for initial permits.¹⁶ Santa Clara County has been sued by prospective permit holders and gun rights groups, arguing the county's permitting process runs afoul of *Bruen*.¹⁷

It is unclear whether California counties with more expensive license applications and lengthier processing times are exceeding the bounds of *Bruen*'s footnote 9 warning. Even longer wait times, however, likely will cause additional lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of those counties' permitting schemes. Counties may feel like they have a bit more breathing room to process applications with the extra year the license would be valid, though it is unclear whether the courts would also see the extra year in this way. The outcome of the Santa Clara County lawsuit, among others in state and federal courts, should

¹² See, *supra*, at note 9.

¹³ *How long does the new Concealed Carry Weapon process take?* County of Placer <<https://www.placer.ca.gov/FAQ.aspx?QID=832>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

¹⁴ *State Population Totals and Components of Change: 2020-2024* (Dec. 2024) U.S. Census Bureau <<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/pepst/2020s-state-total.html#v2024>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Pho, *Santa Clara County concealed carry permits will cost more* (Dec. 10, 2024) San Jose Spotlight <<https://sanjosespotlight.com/santa-clara-county-concealed-carry-permits-will-cost-more/>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

¹⁷ Salonga, *Gun rights groups, residents sue Santa Clara County sheriff over 'onerous' concealed-carry weapon requirements* (Sep. 22, 2025) San Jose Mercury News <<https://www.mercurynews.com/2025/09/22/gun-rights-groups-residents-sue-santa-clara-county-sheriff-over-onerous-concealed-carry-weapon-requirements/>> [as of Mar. 7, 2026].

offer more clarity on the constitutional boundaries for firearms permits. Certainly, it is likely that the more expensive the licenses, and the longer the processing times, in either the short- or long-term, the higher the risk the permitting regime is found unconstitutional.

- 4) **Concealed Carry Licensure and Public Safety:** By extending the license window from two years to three years, this bill could have an impact on public safety.

California has been a relative outlier regarding CCW license duration times. California, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia are the only places with a flat two-year duration on all licenses (Maryland allows for a three-year renewal after a two-year initial permit, while New York allows for a three-year permit).¹⁸ California is also a relative outlier in reduced rates of firearms deaths per 100,000 people.¹⁹ While there is some link between stricter firearms laws and rates of firearms deaths, it is unclear whether the length of CCW licenses specifically has an impact on firearms deaths.²⁰

One study reviewed methodologically strong scientific studies to determine the relationship between concealed carry permits and violent crime. While the majority of the twenty-three studies reviewed showed uncertain effects between concealed carry permits and homicide, five of the studies showed states with shall-issue or permitless carry laws were associated with an increase in homicides.²¹ Four of those studies found higher rates of *firearms* homicide.²² For suicide, mass shootings, and unintentional injuries and deaths, however, a review of studies showed uncertain effects.²³

States with more permissive carry laws tend to lead to an increase in people publicly carrying concealed firearms.²⁴ One study estimated that the number of people carrying concealed firearms has doubled from approximately 11 million to 22 million in roughly the past ten years.²⁵ There is evidence showing that permitted firearms owners, however, are some of the more law-abiding groups in the country and rarely are found involved in violent crime.²⁶ Some evidence also shows that criminal access to firearms is greater in more permissive permitting states due to increases in the theft of those firearms.²⁷ Ensuring carriers keep their firearms safe, secure, and difficult for anyone but them to access may help reduce those rates. Given this data, longer license durations seem unlikely to result in significant increases in firearms-related violent crime. But, ultimately, it is difficult to predict whether extending permit durations will have any impact on public safety.

¹⁸ *Concealed Carry Reciprocity & Gun Laws* (Feb. 3, 2025) United States Concealed Carry Association <https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/ccw_reciprocity_map/ca-gun-laws/#changelogs> [as of Mar. 12, 2026].

¹⁹ *Firearm Mortality* (Aug. 20, 2025) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/state-stats/deaths/firearms.html>> [as of Mar. 12, 2026].

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *The Effects of Concealed Carry Laws* (July 16, 2024) RAND <<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/concealed-carry.html>> [as of Mar. 24, 2025].

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

- 5) **Argument in Support:** According to the *Peace Officers Research Association of California* (PORAC), “We are pleased to support AB 1948 relating to concealed carry licenses.

“This bill would extend the validity period for licenses to carry a concealed firearm, allowing new licenses to be issued for up to three years and renewal licenses for up to six years, rather than the current two-year limit. The bill maintains existing eligibility requirements and training standards while providing a longer licensing period for applicants. By reducing the frequency of renewals, the measure helps streamline the licensing process and reduces administrative workload for both applicants and issuing authorities.”

- 6) **Argument in Opposition:** None submitted.

7) **Related Legislation:**

- a) AB 1453 (Wicks), would authorize firearm trace data to be shared with California universities, community colleges, and most localities for academic and policy research purposes. AB 1453 is pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- b) AB 1589 (Chen), would exempt specified level I reserve peace officers from the prohibition on possessing firearms suppressors. AB 1589 is pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- c) AB 1615 (Nguyen), would authorize a peace officer employed by a county probation department and using an unsafe handgun as a service weapon to satisfy the above-described training requirement by completion of the firearm portion of a training course prescribed by POST and who qualifies with the handgun, as specified, at least every 3 months. AB 1615 is pending hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

8) **Prior Legislation:**

- a) AB 1006 (Ramos), of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, would have treated the spouse of the recorded owner of the firearm as the recorded owner for licensing purposes. The bill would include additional specified acts that would deem an applicant as a disqualified person, including providing any information that the applicant knew or should have known was inaccurate or incomplete information in connection with the application. AB 1006 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- b) AB 1092 (Castillo), of the 2025-26 Legislative Session, would have extended the concealed carry licensure duration from two years to four years. AB 1092 failed passage in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.
- c) AB 3064 (Mainschein), Chapter 540, Statutes of 2024, among other things, required any person, within 60 days of bringing a firearm into the state, to mail or personally deliver to the Department of Justice a report describing the firearm and providing personal information.
- d) SB 2 (Portantino), Chapter 249, Statutes of 2023, among other things, established criteria for a person disqualified from acquiring a carry license, defines the prohibited places where a person cannot carry a firearm even with a license, and requires each licensing

authority prior to issuing a carry license, to determine if the applicant is the recorded owner of the particular pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person reported in the application.

- e) SB 899 (Skinner), Chapter 544, Statutes of 2024, required the court, when issuing protective orders, to provide the person subject to the order with information on how any firearms or ammunition still in their possession are to be relinquished, as specified, and requires violations of the firearms or ammunition prohibition to be reported to the prosecuting attorney in the jurisdiction where the order has been issued within 2 business days of the court hearing.
- f) AB 1931 (Fong), of the 2017-18 Legislative Session, would have made a license issued to carry a concealed firearm valid for any period of time not to exceed five years. AB 1931 failed passage in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California Rifle and Pistol Association, INC.
California State Sheriffs' Association
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
National Rifle Association - Institute for Legislative Action
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC)
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Opposition

None Submitted

Analysis Prepared by: Dustin Weber / PUB. S. / (916) 319-3744