
CONSENT

Bill No: AB 1948
Author: Ramos (D) and Valencia (D)
Amended: 3/19/26 in Assembly
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 3/26/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 6-0, 6/9/26
AYES: Arreguín, Seyarto, Caballero, Cortese, Pérez, Wiener

SUBJECT: Firearms: concealed carry licenses

SOURCE: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

DIGEST: This bill extends the duration of a license to carry concealed firearms (CCW) from two years to three years, except as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Prohibits, generally, the possession of firearms in most public areas, with specified exceptions. (Pen. Code § 25300 et seq.)
- 2) Exempts persons with CCW licenses from the laws prohibiting possessing a firearm in a public area. (Pen. Code § 25655.)
- 3) Provides that when a California resident applies for a new CCW license or license renewal, the sheriff of a county or the chief or other head of a municipal police department of any city or city and county shall issue or renew a license to that person upon proof of all of the following:
 - a) The applicant is not a disqualified person to receive such a license, as defined.

- b) The applicant is at least 21 years of age, and presents clear evidence of the person's identity and age, as defined.
 - c) The applicant is a resident of the county or a city within the county, or the applicant's principal place of employment or business is in the county or a city within the county and the applicant spends a substantial period of time in that place of employment or business.
 - d) The applicant has completed a course of training, as defined.
 - e) The applicant is the recorded owner, with the Department of Justice (DOJ), of the pistol, revolver, or other firearm for which the license will be issued. (Pen. Code, §§ 26150, subd. (a)(1)-(5); 26155, subd. (a)(1)-(5).)
- 4) Sets forth separate requirements for non-California residents apply for a new CCW license or CCW license renewal, including that the non-California resident must attest, under oath, that the jurisdiction in which they have applied is the primary location in California in which they intend to travel or spend time. (Pen. Code, §§ 26150, subd. (b); 26155, subd. (b).)
 - 5) Requires applicants for a new CCW license to complete a course of training that meets specified criteria, including that the course be no less than 16 hours in length and include live-fire shooting exercises. (Pen. Code, § 26165.)
 - 6) Establishes that, unless a court makes a contrary determination, an applicant shall be deemed to be a disqualified person and cannot receive or renew a license if, among other things, the applicant is reasonably likely to be dangerous, has been convicted of specified crimes, has engaged in the reckless use of a firearm, or is currently abusing any controlled substance, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 26202, subd. (a)(1)-(10).)
 - 7) States that in determining whether an applicant is a disqualified person and cannot receive or renew a license, the licensing authority shall conduct an investigation that includes, among other things, an in-person interview unless otherwise stated, interviews with three character witnesses, and a review of information provided by DOJ. (Pen. Code, § 26202, subd. (b)(1)-(6).)
 - 8) Authorizes a person issued a CCW license to apply to the licensing authority for an amendment to the license for one of several specified purposes, but specifies that an amendment to the license does not extend the original expiration date of the license and that the license shall be subject to renewal at the same time as if the license had not been amended. (Pen. Code, § 26215, subds. (a), (c).)

- 9) States that except as otherwise provided, a CCW license is valid for any period of time not to exceed 2 years from the date that the license is issued. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (a).)
- 10) Provides that if the licensee's place of employment or business was the basis for issuance of a CCW license, the license is valid for any period of time not to exceed 90 days from the date of the license, unless the license was issued to a custodial officer who is an employee of the sheriff of a county, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (b).)
- 11) Provides that a CCW license is valid for any period of time not to exceed three years from the date of the license if the license is issued to any of the following individuals:
 - a) A judge of a California court of record.
 - b) A full-time court commissioner of a California court of record.
 - c) A judge of a federal court.
 - d) A magistrate of a federal court. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (c).)
- 12) Provides that a CCW license is valid for any period of time not to exceed 4 years from the date of the license if the license is issued to a custodial officer who is an employee of the sheriff of a county, as specified, except that the license shall be invalid upon the conclusion of the person's employment if the four year period has not otherwise expired or any other condition does not limit the validity of the license. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (d).)
- 13) Provides that a CCW license issued to a reserve or auxiliary peace officer or sheriff's deputy, as provided, is valid for any period of time not to exceed four years from the date of the license, except that the license shall be invalid upon the conclusion of the person's appointment if the four-year period has not otherwise expired or any other condition does not limit the validity of the license to a shorter time period. (Pen. Code, § 26220, subd. (e).)

This bill:

- 1) Extends the duration that a standard CCW license may be valid from 2 years to 3 years.
- 2) Strikes the existing provision specifying that a CCW issued to certain judicial officers may be valid for any period of time not to exceed three years.

- 3) Clarifies that the provisions specifying the duration that a CCW is valid when issued to a sheriff's department custodial officer or a reserve officer of a police or sheriff's department applies to both new and renewal licenses.

Comments

Since the enactment of SB 2 (Portantino, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2023 which shifted California from a "may-issue" CCW regime to a "shall-issue regime" where licensing authorities have less discretion to deny applications, many counties have been plagued by CCW processing delays and application backlogs. San Francisco Sheriff Paul Miyamoto recently issued a formal apology after processing delays caused several timely requested permit renewals to expire without action, citing staffing shortages. Other reports suggest that wait times and administrative hurdles have been greater particularly for Black and Latino Californians, with some applicants in Los Angeles County waiting 16-20 months for a screening interview. In response to such claims, the United States Department of Justice sued the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department in September 2025, alleging that such delays infringed on the applicants' Second Amendment rights. For context, SB 2 provided that the licensing authority must give written notice to the applicant indicating approval or denial of the application within 120 of receiving the completed application or 30 days after receiving background check information from the California Department of Justice, whichever is later.

Existing law enacted by SB 2 provides that a CCW license is valid for a maximum of 2 years from the date of issuance, except in the case of judicial officers, for whom CCW licenses are valid for up to 3 years before requiring renewal. Additionally, CCWs issued to custodial officers employed by a sheriff's department or to reserve police officers are valid for a maximum of 4 years. Last year, Assemblymember Castillo authored AB 1092, which would have extended the validity of a CCW issued after January 1, 2026 and before January 1, 2027 from 2 years to 3 years, and of a CCW issued on or after January 1, 2027 to a maximum of 4 years. That measure failed in the Assembly Public Safety Committee. This bill is similar to AB 1092, except that it simply specifies that all standard CCWs are valid for a maximum of 3 years, and strikes the consequently unnecessary language granting a 3-year CCW to judicial officers. This bill also clarifies that the 4-year CCW available to custodial officers and reserve officers applies to both new and renewal CCWs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/9/26)

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (source)
California Civil Liberties Advocacy
California Rifle & Pistol Association
California State Sheriffs Association
Peace Officers Research Association of California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/9/26)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 71-0, 3/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Berman, Carrillo, Dixon, Ellis, Flora, Mark González, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Alex Barnett / PUB. S. /
6/10/26 16:58:17

**** END ****