
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 458 (Stefani) - Public contracts: firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories

Version: July 2, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: G.O. 11 - 0, PUB. S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 458 requires the Department of General Services (DGS), in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ), to develop model guidelines for state entities on the procurement of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown one-time costs, potentially ranging from absorbable to the low hundreds of thousands of dollars (Service Revolving Fund), for DGS to develop the guidance and update the State Administrative Manual (SAM) and State Contracting Manual (SCM). The upfront workload to create this guidance is expected to be the primary cost driver, with ongoing costs likely decreasing as the department transitions to updating vendor selection best practices as necessary.
- DOJ does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact to consult with DGS to develop the firearms procurement guidelines.

Background: Federal law requires firearms dealers to obtain a federal firearms license (FFL) from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The ATF issues different types of licenses for dealers, manufacturers, importers, collectors, and pawnbrokers. As of January 2026, California had approximately 1,300+ licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers and more than 12,000 FFL holders overall. However, an FFL alone is not sufficient to sell firearms in California. State law requires firearms dealers to obtain additional state and local licenses and permits, secure a Certificate of Eligibility from the DOJ, and be listed on the DOJ's centralized roster of firearms dealers. Only dealers meeting these requirements may lawfully sell, lease, or transfer firearms in California, subject to limited exemptions.

California firearms dealers are also subject to extensive state and federal regulations governing recordkeeping, inventory security, firearm transfers, storage requirements, and other operational practices. Research has consistently found a relationship between dealer compliance and the likelihood that firearms from a dealer's inventory will later be recovered in connection with criminal activity.

Proposed Law:

- By July 1, 2027, requires DGS, in consultation with DOJ, to develop model guidelines for offices, officers, departments, divisions, boards, bureaus, and commissions of the state on the procurement of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories.

- States the purpose of these guidelines is to help state entities choose vendors and contractors for the procurement of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories that are in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal firearms laws.
- Defines “firearm accessory” to mean an attachment or device designed or adapted to be inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm that is designed, intended, or functions to increase a firearm’s rate of fire or to increase the speed at which a person may reload a firearm or replace the magazine, or any other attachment or device described in subdivision (a) of Section 30515 of the Penal Code that may render a firearm an assault weapon when inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm. The term firearm accessory also includes any other device, tool, kit, part, or parts set that is clearly designed and intended for use in manufacturing firearms.

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