
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1220 (Hurtado) - Firearms: prohibited persons

Version: February 19, 2026
Urgency: No
Hearing Date: April 20, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 1
Mandate: Yes
Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 1220 would prohibit a person convicted of buying, receiving, selling, or possessing a firearm that has identification information changed, altered, removed or obliterated from purchasing or possessing a firearm for ten years.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown, potentially significant costs to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate violations. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknowns, including the numbers of people charged with an offense and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 in staff in workload. This is a conservative estimate, based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. If court days exceed 10, costs to the trial courts could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations.

Unknown, potentially significant costs (local funds, General Fund) to the counties to incarcerate people for violations of this bill. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail varies by county but likely ranges from \$70,000 to \$90,000 per year. For example, in 2021, Los Angeles County budgeted \$1.3 billion for jail spending, including \$89,580 per incarcerated person. Actual incarceration costs to counties will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. Generally, county incarceration costs are not reimbursable state mandates pursuant to Proposition 30 (2012).

Unknown, potentially significant to major costs (General Fund) to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to incarcerate people for violations of this bill. The estimated 2026-27 average annual cost to incarcerate one person in state prison is \$138,000 based on an average daily population of 87,760 inmates.

Background: Existing state and federal law contains a myriad of prohibitions on the possession and attempted purchase of firearms by certain individuals. Under both state and federal law, all felony convictions lead to a lifetime prohibition. California law goes further and imposes a 10-year prohibition on the possession and purchase of firearms for individuals convicted of numerous misdemeanor offenses that involve either violence or threat of violence as well as certain firearm-related crimes. Since the 10-year firearm prohibition for certain misdemeanor convictions was enacted in 1991, several bills over

the past several decades have sought to add offenses to the “10-year list,” which now includes over 60 misdemeanor offenses.

Existing law, subject to specified exceptions, makes it a misdemeanor for any person to, with knowledge of any change, alteration, removal or obliteration of certain identifying marks on firearms, to buy, receive, dispose of, sell, offer for sale or possess any firearm that has had such identifying mark removed or altered. This crime is generally referred to as the knowing possession of an unserialized firearm, and this bill adds a conviction for this crime to the 10-year firearm prohibition list described above.

Proposed Law: This bill provides that any person who is convicted of knowingly possessing, purchasing, receiving, selling or offering for sale an unserialized firearm in violation of Penal Code Section 23920 subdivision (a) shall not own, purchase, receive or have in their possession any firearm for a period of 10 years, a violation of which is punishable as an aggravated misdemeanor.

Related Legislation: AB 1263 (Gipson), Chapter 636, Statutes of 2025, added over a dozen distinct firearm-related offenses to the 10-year list, among which were the illegal transfer of an unserialized firearm, the illegal manufacture of a gun with a 3D printer or computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine, and knowingly or willfully causing a person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms