
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 828 (Cabaldon) - Fireworks licenses and permits: disqualifying conditions: storage facilities: local jurisdictions

Version: January 5, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: January 20, 2026

Policy Vote: G.O. 14 - 0, L. GOV. 7 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: SB 828 imposes additional notification and documentation requirements on fireworks licensees for fireworks storage facilities, enhances verification of local permits, land use approvals, and routine local inspections, and expands related enforcement authority for the State Fire Marshal (SFM) and local fire and law enforcement agencies.

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown revenue loss to the SFM Fireworks Enforcement and Disposal Fund. The bill repeals the requirement that if dangerous fireworks are seized pursuant to a local ordinance that provides for administrative fines or penalties and these fines or penalties are collected, the local government entity collecting the fines or penalties shall forward 65 percent of the collected moneys to the Controller for deposit in the SFM Fireworks Enforcement and Disposal Fund. To the extent that this revenue is significant, there may be a corresponding impact to the fund and the SFM's administrative and enforcement operations.
- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) anticipates any administrative associated costs to be minor and absorbable.

Background: AB 475 (Redwine, Chapter 534, Statutes of 1939) established California's Fireworks Law. The Law designates the SFM as the only fireworks classification authority in California. Fireworks are classified through laboratory analysis, field examinations, and test firing of items. As part of the program, the SFM requires the licensing of all pyrotechnic operators, fireworks manufacturers, importer-exporters, wholesalers, retailers, and public display companies. Pyrotechnic operators who discharge fireworks at public displays or launch high powered and experimental rockets, must also pass a written examination and provide proof of experience.

The retail sale of "safe and sane" fireworks is legal in California between noon on June 28 and noon on July 6 of every calendar year – but may be prohibited locally through ordinances.

Proposed Law:

- Requires fireworks wholesaler, manufacturer, importer, and exporter licensees, to disclose the complete street addresses of any intended storage facilities for any fireworks or materials to build fireworks on their initial application.

- Requires fireworks licensees to notify the SFM, the applicable city manager, or chief administrative officer/county administrator/sheriff/police chief if there is no city manager, of any intended storage facilities for any fireworks or materials to build fireworks.
- Expands the authority of the SFM to deny or revoke a fireworks license if the licensee fails to provide the above additional documentation and information to the specified entities.
- Requires the Office of the SFM to notify the following parties of any storage site reported on a fireworks license application:
 - The applicable county administrator and city manager or, if there is no city manager, chief administrative officer.
 - The applicable local fire chief.
 - The applicable hazardous materials office.
 - The applicable sheriff and police chief.
- Additionally requires importer and exporter licensees to include the street address and county of the facilities in which fireworks will be stored and copies of applications related to applicable zoning and land use approvals in those licensees' notice to the SFM.
- Requires fireworks licensees to provide the SFM the following information, if applicable:
 - Documentation affirming the possession of a permit applicable to fireworks activity required by the public agency having local jurisdiction pursuant to this chapter.
 - Documentation affirming possession of necessary local land use permits or other entitlements required by the public agency having local jurisdiction pursuant to this chapter.
 - Information about the storage sites for the fireworks.
- Requires the SFM to allow the applicable public agency an opportunity to validate the permit of fireworks licensees.
- Authorizes a public agency having local jurisdiction to adopt a schedule of fees to recover costs incurred in administering, processing, inspecting, and enforcing the conditions of permits associated with fireworks activities or storage.
- Authorizes the chief of the fire department, fire marshal, or chief fire prevention officer of the city, county, city and county, or fire protection district or other public agency having jurisdiction, to enter and inspect any premise, facility, or storage site used for the manufacture, storage, sale, or display of fireworks to determine compliance with all applicable laws, SFM regulations, and local fire codes.
- Requires a public agency with local jurisdiction to, at least every 12 months, inspect each fireworks facility or storage site within its jurisdiction to verify permit validity and required documentation, compliance with fireworks storage, separation, and safety

requirements, and maintenance of required fire protection systems and safety signage.

- Authorizes a public agency to suspend or revoke the local permit for noncompliant fireworks licensees.
- Repeals the requirement that if dangerous fireworks are seized pursuant to a local ordinance that provides for administrative fines or penalties and these fines or penalties are collected, the local government entity collecting the fines or penalties shall forward 65 percent of the collected moneys to the Controller for deposit in the SFM Fireworks Enforcement and Disposal Fund.

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