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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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## **SB 937 (Gonzalez) - Law enforcement: flash-bang grenades and explosive breaching charges**

**Version:** March 10, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** April 13, 2026

**Policy Vote:** PUB. S. 5 - 1

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Bob Franzoia

**Bill Summary:** SB 937 would restrict the uses of flash-bang grenades by law enforcement agencies as specified. This bill would prohibit law enforcement officers from using explosive breaching charges for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

Existing law prohibits the use of kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents by any law enforcement agency to disperse any assembly, protest, or demonstration, except in compliance with specified standards. Existing law requires kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents only to be deployed by a peace officer that has received proper training for crowd control, as specified, including that only a commanding officer at the scene of the assembly, protest, or demonstration may authorize the use of tear gas. This bill would expand the above prohibition and exception to include flash-bang grenades, as defined.

This bill would define law enforcement agency as any department or agency of the state or any local government, special district, or other political subdivision thereof, that employs any peace officer, as defined, or any federal law enforcement agency.

**Fiscal Impact:** Costs to each state and local law enforcement agency to adopt the required policy regarding the use flash-bang grenades (local funds, special funds, General Fund). There are approximately 600 law enforcement agencies in the state. Training costs will vary from minor to significant depending on the size of the agency and staff resources with aggregate statewide costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars one time.

To the extent there are prosecutions for misdemeanor violations of the unauthorized the use of flash-band grenades by law enforcement officers, there will be related cost pressure to the courts (Trial Court Trust Fund) to adjudicate the criminal charges and costs to the counties to incarcerate persons who are convicted. These actual cost pressures and costs would depend on the number of prosecutions and convictions.

Cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to the courts to adjudicate civil actions for which defendants may not assert privileges or immunities as a result of this bill. Actual costs will depend on the number of actions and the amount of court time required by each action. It generally costs \$8,000 to operate a courtroom for one day. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the Trial Court Trust Fund may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The FY 2025-26 state budget provided \$82 million ongoing General Fund support to the Trial Court Trust Fund for court operations. The proposed FY 2026-07 budget would provide \$70 million General Fund support.

**Background:** Existing law provides that the use of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents shall only be deployed by a peace officer that has received training on their proper use by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training for crowd control under specified conditions set forth in Penal Code Section 13652. This bill would add flash-bang grenades to the training requirements.

**Proposed Law:** This bill defines flash-bang grenades to mean any less-than-lethal explosive or pyrotechnic devices that are deployed by hand or as projectiles and that produce a bright flash and loud noise intended to temporarily stun, distract, effect an arrest, or disperse a gathering of people. Flash-bang grenades include, but are not limited to, explosive or pyrotechnic devices that also emit chemical agents, kinetic energy projectiles, or shrapnel, or that are commonly referred to as blast balls, sting balls, stinger grenades, noise flash diversionary devices, concussion grenades, or stun grenades (PCS 13652 (e) (2)).

This bill defines explosive breaching charges to mean less lethal explosive charges that are deployed by hand to effectuate the forced opening of closed or locked points of entry often through the destruction of doors, locks, hinges, windows, and frame materials. These charges include, but are not limited to, detonating cords, sheet explosives, shaped charges, blasting caps, and detonators (PCS 13652.2).

**Staff Comments:** In 2019, California refined its use of force statutes in order to provide clearer guidance to law enforcement and the public, specifically regarding the use of deadly force is appropriate. AB 392 (Weber), Chapter 170/ 2019, specified the circumstances in which deadly force is and is not appropriate, and SB 230 (Caballero), Chapter 285/ 2019, required law enforcement agencies to update their training and policies with specific requirements regarding use of force.

AB 48 (Gonzalez), Chapter 404S2021, enacted PCS 13652, which generally prohibited law enforcement agencies from using kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents to disperse any assembly, protest or demonstration. However, that bill allowed for the deployment of those less lethal munitions in limited circumstances, namely where the peace officer has received training on proper use by POST, if the use is objectively reasonable to defend against a threat to life or serious bodily injury to any individual or to bring an objectively dangerous and unlawful situation safely under control, and if other enumerated conditions aimed at mitigating unintended consequences are met. AB 48 also included a requirement that law enforcement agencies, within 60 days of an incident in which kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents are used, publish a summary of the incident on its website.

The fiscal impact of this bill on DOJ is not considered significant. However, there are numerous bills this session with a similar fiscal impact. Should the aggregate of these bills chapter, DOJ may submit a budget change proposal for additional resources to process the increased workload,