
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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

Version: March 10, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 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.

******* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *******

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026**

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.

Author Amendments: Amend to (1) clarify the proximity from sensitive areas that flashbangs are prohibited from being deployed, and (2) specify training from an equivalent to POST for law enforcement officers who do not receive POST training.

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