

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 937 (Gonzalez) – As Amended June 16, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 7 - 2

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill adds flash-bang grenades to the existing restrictions on the use of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents for crowd control, extends those restrictions to federal law enforcement agencies, and prohibits the use of flash-bang grenades and explosive breaching charges for immigration enforcement except as part of a joint law enforcement task force.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Prohibits a law enforcement agency from using flash-bang grenades to disperse an assembly, protest, or demonstration, and permits deployment only by a trained peace officer under specified conditions.
- 2) Extends the prohibitions on kinetic energy projectiles, chemical agents, and flash-bang grenades to federal law enforcement agencies.
- 3) Requires each law enforcement agency, within 60 days of each incident, to publish on its internet website a summary of each instance in which an officer uses a flash-bang grenade for crowd control.
- 4) Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to post a compiled list linking each agency's reports.
- 5) Prohibits a peace officer from using flash-bang grenades or explosive breaching charges for immigration enforcement except as part of a joint law enforcement task force.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Minor and absorbable costs to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to update its crowd control guidelines (Peace Officers' Training Fund). POST reports the bill would not require new training, as the tools and tactics at issue are deployed by SWAT officers who already undergo extensive certification, and the relevant material is covered at a basic level in the academy.
- 2) Costs of an unknown amount, likely in excess of \$150,000 statewide to state and local law enforcement agencies to publish the incident summaries this bill requires (General Fund, special funds, local funds). Notably, while the reporting obligation is incremental, the obligation attaches to more than 500 local law enforcement entities, and the aggregate cost may be reimbursable, pursuant to a determination of the Commission on State Mandate.

- 3) Minor and absorbable costs to DOJ to add flash-bang grenade reports to the compiled list DOJ already maintains for existing crowd control munitions (General Fund).

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

SB 937 extends these existing restrictions and training requirements to flash-bang grenades, and it bars use of explosive breaching devices for immigration enforcement. This measure is vital to ensuring the safety of both citizens exercising their right to protest and law enforcement agents in the field.

- 2) **Background.** Existing law generally prohibits law enforcement agencies from using kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents to disperse an assembly, protest, or demonstration, and permits their deployment only by trained officers under specified conditions (AB 48 (Gonzalez), Chapter 404, Statutes of 2021). This bill folds flash-bang grenades into that framework, applies the framework to federal law enforcement agencies, and prohibits the use of flash-bang grenades and explosive breaching charges for immigration enforcement outside a joint task force. The bill's regulation of federal officers raises questions under the Supremacy Clause and the intergovernmental immunity doctrine that are addressed in the policy committee analysis. To the extent the bill is challenged in court, any defense costs would be borne by the Department of Justice.
- 3) **Support and Opposition.** The bill is sponsored by the California Community Foundation, and supported by ACLU California Action, the California Public Defenders Association, immigrant rights organizations, and civil rights groups, which argue flash-bang grenades and explosive breaching charges carry serious injury risks and that existing law restricts comparable munitions but not these devices. The bill is opposed by law enforcement associations, including the California Peace Officers Association and the California State Sheriffs Association, which argue the categorical restrictions remove a tool that can de-escalate dangerous situations without lethal force, duplicate existing immigration-related law, and displace officers' professional judgment in rapidly evolving circumstances.
- 4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 48 (Gonzalez), Chapter 404, Statutes 2021 enacted the kinetic energy projectile and chemical agent restrictions this bill builds on.

Analysis Prepared by: Shiran Zohar / APPR. / (916) 319-2081