
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 948 (Arreguín) - Firearms: safety certificates

Version: March 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 5 - 1

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 948 would require personal firearm importers to obtain a Firearm Safety Certificate (FSC) within 60 days of moving to California, and to require all firearm safety certificate applicants, commencing July 1, 2028, to complete a firearm training course that includes instruction on firearm safety and live-fire shooting exercises.

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

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

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown costs, potentially in excess of \$100,000, for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to process applications for FSCs for personal firearms importers. These costs would be offset by application fee revenues. (Firearm Safety and Enforcement Special Fund)
- Unknown fee revenue gains, potentially in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, related to the issuance of new FSCs for personal firearms importers. The \$15 of the \$25 FSC application fee is deposited into the Firearm Safety and Enforcement Special Fund.
- Unknown, potentially significant court workload cost pressures to the extent enforcement actions are taken against personal firearms importers for failure to obtain an FSC within 120 days. The number of cases that would be brought as a result of this bill is unknown. It generally costs about \$8,000 to operate a courtroom for one eight-hour day. If cases brought as a result of this bill take an additional 50 hours of court time in the aggregate in a given year, the cost pressures to the courts would surpass the Suspense File threshold. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased staff time and resources may create a need for increased funding for courts from the General Fund to perform existing duties. (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund)
- Costs (local funds, General Fund) to the counties to incarcerate people convicted of the misdemeanor created by this bill. Actual incarceration costs will depend on the number of convictions and the length of each sentence. The average annual cost to incarcerate one person in county jail is approximately \$29,000. County incarceration costs are not subject to reimbursement by the state. However, overcrowding in county jails creates cost pressure on the General Fund because the state has historically granted new funding to counties to offset overcrowding resulting from public safety realignment.

Author Amendments: Amend to (1) extend the length of time by which a person entering the state must obtain a firearm safety certificate from 60 days to 180 days, (2) reduce the length of the training course from eight hours to four hours and (3) exempt from the training requirement individuals with valid concealed carry weapons permits.

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