

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 948 (Arreguín) – As Amended July 2, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 7 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires every applicant for a firearm safety certificate (FSC), on or after July 1, 2028, to complete a four-hour training course that includes at least one hour of live-fire instruction, and requires a personal firearm importer to obtain a valid FSC and include a copy with the report the importer must already file with the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires a personal firearm importer to obtain a valid FSC within 180 days of bringing a firearm into the state, extended from 60 days under the version heard in Senate Appropriations, and to include a copy of the certificate in the report filed with DOJ under Penal Code section 27560.
- 2) Makes it an infraction to bring a firearm, other than an antique firearm, into the state without obtaining a valid FSC within 180 days, where the person is required to report the importation to DOJ.
- 3) Provides that the prohibition does not apply where evidence of the violation arises only from the person applying for an FSC after the 180-day period has run.
- 4) Requires an FSC applicant, on or after July 1, 2028, to have completed within the prior year a training course of no fewer than four hours, including at least one hour of live shooting, taught and supervised by DOJ-certified instructors, covering firearm law, secure storage, safe handling and shooting fundamentals, lawful surrender or transfer, and self-defense and use-of-force law.
- 5) Requires the live-fire component to occur on a firing range and to include a demonstration of safe handling and basic shooting proficiency.
- 6) Exempts individuals holding a valid concealed carry weapons (CCW) license from the training requirement.
- 7) Authorizes DOJ to adopt regulations implementing the training requirement.
- 8) Authorizes the Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account (DROS Account) to be used, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for costs associated with implementation and ongoing expenses of the training requirement.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Costs of up to \$400,000 (General Fund) to DOJ associated with the training requirement, including instructor program standards, curriculum specifications, and course completion verification, and for modifications to the systems used to process firearms applications and new resident reports. DOJ identifies one limited-term analyst beginning January 1, 2027 to promulgate regulations, one permanent analyst beginning July 1, 2028 to process instructor applications and support the certificate system, overtime for existing staff, limited consultation by two deputy attorneys general, and limited-term consultant resources within the California Justice Information Services Division. According to DOJ, the department cannot absorb these costs within existing budgeted resources. While DOJ's firearms-related workload is typically supported by the Dealers' Record of Sale (DROS) Special Account, DOJ states that current DROS revenues are insufficient to absorb the costs of this bill, and a General Fund appropriation would be required. Ongoing administrative costs of an unknown amount, likely minor, would also accrue to DOJ to verify firearm safety certificates submitted with personal firearm importer reports.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, California requires no training or education to obtain an FSC, and does not require people who bring firearms into the state to obtain one at all. This bill is intended to close both gaps by tying meaningful instruction, including live fire, to the certificate, and by applying the certificate requirement to new residents.
- 2) **Background.** An FSC is currently obtained by scoring 75% or better on a 25-question multiple-choice test given by a DOJ-certified instructor. The certificate lasts five years and is required to purchase, receive, or borrow a firearm. Separately, existing law requires a person moving into California with a firearm to file a report with DOJ describing the person and the firearm, and allows DOJ to charge a fee covering the actual cost of processing that report. This bill leaves the certificate's function unchanged and replaces the test with a four-hour course. It also adds the certificate to the report new residents already file, so the reporting system itself is in place; the added work is verifying certificates and processing certificate applications from people who previously had no reason to seek one. The Assembly Public Safety Committee raises potential Second Amendment concerns, citing the Supreme Court's recent *Bruen* decision. To the extent this measure is challenged, defense costs would be borne by the Department of Justice.
- 3) **Support and Opposition.** The bill is supported by Brady, Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund, Giffords, Moms Demand Action, and the California Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, among others. It is opposed by the California Rifle and Pistol Association, the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action, Gun Owners of California, California Waterfowl Association, and other sporting organizations, which argue the training mandate imposes uncapped costs on applicants, lacks a historical analogue under *Bruen*, and burdens compliant owners rather than prohibited persons.
- 4) **Related Legislation.** SB 1220 (Hurtado), of the 2025-26 Legislative Session, adds specified conduct involving unserialized firearms to the 10-year firearms prohibition. The bill is pending in this committee.

- 5) **Prior Legislation.** SB 1253 (Gonzales), of the 2023-24 Legislative Session, prohibited bringing a firearm into the state as a personal firearm importer without obtaining an FSC within 120 days. The bill was held on this committee's suspense file.

SB 241 (Min), Chapter 250, Statutes of 2023, required firearms dealer licensees and employees who handle firearms to complete annual training and required DOJ to develop a training course with a testing component.

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