

AB 1674 (Santiago)

Gun Sales

Bill Summary

AB 1674 caps the amount of firearms that may be purchased by a person at one per month – the same restriction currently in place for handguns.

Existing Law

California's Penal Code Section 27535 restricts applications to purchase handguns to one per each 30-day period.

Private party transactions – typically those in which used handguns are sold or transferred – are exempted from the monthly restriction, per **Penal Code Section 27535 (b)(8)**.

There is no monthly restriction on long gun purchases.

Background

Historically, policymakers have believed that the bulk of gun violence is perpetuated by handguns. Recent data collection efforts have shown that assumption to be incorrect, however.

Facts

The term “long gun” generally refers to rifles and shotguns.

Over the past ten years, Californians have typically purchased more long guns than handguns, including 538,149 guns in 2013ⁱ.

Long guns are a significant piece of California's gun trafficking problem. Of the 26,682 crime guns entered into DOJ's Automated Firearms Systems (AFS) database in 2009, 11,500 were long gunsⁱⁱ.

Furthermore, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) has found that half the illegal firearms recovered from prohibited persons are long gunsⁱⁱⁱ.

A 2007 University of Pennsylvania report to the **National Institute of Justice** found that:

- A quarter of all guns used in crime were purchased as part of a multiple-gun sale; and
- Guns purchased in bulk were up to 64% more likely to be used for illegal purposes than guns purchased individually^{iv}.

Need for AB 1674

Federal and state gun crime forensic data (i.e. number of guns used, manner in which guns were obtained, etc.) is either non-existent or sparse.

Independent data collection efforts are beginning to yield some startling conclusions, including that:

- Of the mass shootings that have occurred in the United States throughout the last 30 years, 72 (exactly half) of the weapons used in those crimes were long guns^v.
- Of the 11 mass shootings in California in the same timeframe, nearly the same is true: 12 long guns were used along with 16 handguns^{vi}.

It is surprising that a person – no matter their intentions – could purchase as many rifles or shotguns that they want at any given time.

AB 1674 represents a common sense solution to gun violence and trafficking in California.

History

01/19 – Introduced

03/01 – Assembly Public Safety Committee 5-2

04/13 – Assembly Approps. Committee - Suspense

Support

All Saints Pasadena Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

California Academy of Family Physicians

California Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

City of Long Beach

Coalition Against Gun Violence, Santa Barbara Courage Campaign

Friends Committee on Legislation of California

Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

Los Angeles City Attorney, Mike Feuer

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Rabbis Against Gun Violence

Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

Women Against Gun Violence

Youth ALIVE!

3 Individuals

For More Information

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References

ⁱ California Department of Justice, “Dealer’s Record of Sale (Calendar Year Statistics),” http://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/firearms/forms/dros_chart.pdf?

ⁱⁱ Data provided by the California Department of Justice, April 6, 2010.

ⁱⁱⁱ Data provided by the California Department of Justice, March 4, 2010.

^{iv} Koper, Christopher S.; Jerry Lee Center of Criminology, Univ. of Penn., *Crime Gun Risk Factors: Buyer, Seller, Firearm, and Transaction Characteristics Associated with Gun Trafficking and Criminal Gun Use -- A report to the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice* (2007). <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221074.pdf>.

^v Follman, Mark; Aronsen, Gavin; Pan, Deanna; and Caldwell, Maggie. “US Mass Shootings, 1982-2015: Data From Mother’ Jones’ Investigation.” *Mother Jones Magazine*, December 28, 2012. Updated December 3, 2015.

^{vi} Ibid.