

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2025

SENATE BILL

No. 704

Introduced by Senator Arreguín

February 21, 2025

An act to amend Section 28235 of, to add Section 16525 to, and to add Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 33700) to Division 10 of Title 4 of Part 6 of, the Penal Code, relating to firearms.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 704, as amended, Arreguín. Firearms: firearm barrels.

Existing law generally requires the sale or transfer of firearms to be conducted through a licensed firearms dealer. For purposes of these provisions, existing law defines “firearm” to mean a device, designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled through a barrel a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion and to include the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver, or a firearm precursor part. For these purposes, existing law defines “firearm precursor part” as any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled, or converted.

Commencing on July 1, 2026, this bill would, except as specified, prohibit the sale or transfer of a firearm barrel, as defined, unless the transaction is completed in person by a licensed firearms dealer. The bill would require the licensed firearms dealer to conduct a background

check of the purchaser or transferee and to record specified information pertaining to the transaction, including the date of the sale or transfer. ~~The bill would require any costs incurred by the Department of Justice to implement these provisions, which cannot be absorbed by the department, to be funded from the Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account upon appropriation by the Legislature.~~ The bill would make a violation of these provisions punishable as a misdemeanor. By creating a new crime, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16525 is added to the Penal Code, to
2 read:

3 16525. As used in Section 33700, "firearm barrel" means the
4 tube, usually metal and cylindrical, through which a projectile or
5 shot charge is fired. A firearm barrel includes a firearm barrel that
6 has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be
7 completed, assembled, or converted to be used as a firearm barrel,
8 or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as
9 a firearm barrel once completed, assembled, or converted. A
10 firearm barrel may have a rifled or smooth bore.

11 SEC. 2. Section 28235 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

12 28235. Except as otherwise provided in Section 28233, moneys
13 received by the department pursuant to this article shall be
14 deposited in the Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account of the
15 General Fund, which is hereby created, to be available, upon
16 appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by the department
17 to offset the costs incurred pursuant to any of the following:

- 18 (a) This article.
- 19 (b) Section 18910.
- 20 (c) Section 27555.
- 21 (d) Subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 27560.
- 22 (e) Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section 28010).

1 (f) Article 6 (commencing with Section 28450).

2 (g) Section 31110.

3 (h) Section 31115.

4 (i) Subdivision (a) of Section 32020.

5 (j) Section 32670.

6 (k) Section 33320.

7 (l) Section 33700.

8 SEC. 3. Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 33700) is added
9 to Division 10 of Title 4 of Part 6 of the Penal Code, to read:

10
11 CHAPTER 11. FIREARM BARREL
12

13 33700. (a) Commencing July 1, 2026, a firearm barrel, as
14 defined in Section 16525, shall not be sold or transferred unless
15 that transaction is completed in person by a firearms dealer licensed
16 pursuant to Sections 26700 to 26915, inclusive, and the licensed
17 firearms dealer has conducted a background check to determine
18 that the person is authorized to purchase a firearm, ammunition,
19 and a firearm barrel in a manner prescribed by the department.

20 (b) The licensed firearms dealer shall legibly record all of the
21 following on a form to be prescribed by the Department of Justice
22 pertaining to the sale or transfer of the firearm barrel:

23 (1) The date of the sale or transfer.

24 (2) The purchaser's or transferee's driver's license or other
25 identification number and the state in which it was issued.

26 (3) The make, model, and caliber of the firearm that the firearm
27 barrel is designed for or used in.

28 (4) The purchaser's or transferee's full name.

29 (5) The name of the salesperson who processed the sale or
30 transfer.

31 (6) The purchaser's or transferee's full residential address and
32 telephone number.

33 (7) The purchaser's or transferee's date of birth.

34 (c) Commencing July 1, 2026, a licensed firearms dealer shall
35 electronically submit to the department the information required
36 by subdivision (b) for all sales and transfers of ownership of a
37 firearm barrel. The department shall retain this information in a
38 manner established by the department.

39 (d) The Department of Justice is authorized to adopt regulations
40 to implement this act. ~~These regulations are exempt from the~~

1 ~~Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with~~
2 ~~Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government~~
3 ~~Code).~~

4 ~~(e) Any costs incurred by the Department of Justice to~~
5 ~~implement this section, which cannot be absorbed by the~~
6 ~~department, shall be funded from the Dealers' Record of Sale~~
7 ~~Special Account, as set forth in Section 28235, or former Section~~
8 ~~12076 as it read at any time from when it was amended by Section~~
9 ~~1.7 of Chapter 954 of the Statutes of 1991 to when it was repealed~~
10 ~~by Section 12 of Chapter 606 of the Statutes of 1993, or former~~
11 ~~Section 12076 as it read at any time from when it was enacted by~~
12 ~~Section 13 of Chapter 606 of the Statutes of 1993 to when it was~~
13 ~~repealed by the Deadly Weapons Recodification Act of 2010, upon~~
14 ~~appropriation by the Legislature.~~

15 ~~(f)~~

16 ~~(e) A violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor punishable~~
17 ~~by up to one year in jail and a ten-thousand-dollar (\$10,000) fine.~~

18 ~~(g)~~

19 ~~(f) The following are exempt from the process outlined in this~~
20 ~~section:~~

21 ~~(1) Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.~~

22 ~~(2) The United States military.~~

23 ~~(3) A person purchasing a firearm and undergoing a state and~~
24 ~~federal firearm background check pursuant to Section 28220.~~

25 SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
26 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
27 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
28 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
29 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
30 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
31 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
32 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
33 Constitution.