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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1127

Introduced by Assembly Members Gabriel and Stefani
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Gipson and Wicks)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bauer-Kahan, Berman, Bryan,
Connolly, Mark González, Kalra, Ortega, Petrie-Norris, and
Quirk-Silva)

February 20, 2025

An act to amend Section 3273.50 of the Civil Code, and to amend Section 16880 of, and to add Sections 16885, 17015, 27595, and 27595.1 to, the Penal Code, relating to firearms.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1127, as amended, Gabriel. Firearms: converter pistols.

Existing law prohibits any person from selling, leasing, or transferring any firearm unless the person is licensed as a firearms dealer, as specified. Existing law prescribes certain requirements and prohibitions for licensed firearms dealers. A violation of any of these requirements or prohibitions is grounds for forfeiture of a firearms dealer's license. For purposes of these provisions, existing law defines "machinegun" to mean, among other definitions, any weapon that shoots or is designed to shoot automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

This bill would prohibit a licensed firearms dealer to sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified. For these purposes, the bill would define “machinegun-convertible pistol” as any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools into a machinegun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter, as specified, and “pistol converter” as any device or instrument that, when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a semiautomatic pistol, replaces the backplate and interferes with the trigger mechanism and thereby enables the pistol to shoot automatically more than one shot by a single function of the trigger. The bill would make a violation of these provisions punishable by a fine, a 2nd violation punishable by a fine that may result in a suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists maintained by the Department of Justice, and a 3rd violation punishable as a misdemeanor that shall result in the revocation of the dealer’s license and removal from certain centralized lists.

Existing law prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun, except as authorized. A violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a felony.

This bill would expand the above definition of “machinegun” to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter and, thus, prohibit the manufacture, sale, possession, or transportation of a machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter.

This bill would make these provisions severable.

By creating a new crime and expanding the application of an existing 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:

SECTION 1. Section 3273.50 of the Civil Code is amended to read:

3273.50. As used in this title, the following definitions apply:
(a) “Ammunition” has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 16150 of the Penal Code.

(b) “Firearm” has the same meaning as provided in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 16520 of the Penal Code.

(c) “Firearm accessory” means an attachment or device designed or adapted to be inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm that is designed, intended, or functions to alter or enhance the firing capabilities of a firearm, the lethality of the firearm, or a shooter’s ability to hold and use a firearm.

(d) “Firearm-related product” means a firearm, ammunition, a firearm precursor part, a firearm component, firearm manufacturing machine, and a firearm accessory that meets any of the following conditions:

(1) The item is sold, made, or distributed in California.

(2) The item is intended to be sold or distributed in California.

(3) The item is or was possessed in California and it was reasonably foreseeable that the item would be possessed in California.

(e) “Firearm precursor part” has the same meaning as provided in Section 16531 of the Penal Code.

(f) “Firearm industry member” shall mean a person, firm, corporation, company, partnership, society, joint stock company, or any other entity or association engaged in the manufacture, distribution, importation, marketing, wholesale sale, or retail sale of firearm-related products.

(g) “Firearm manufacturing machine” means a three-dimensional printer, as defined in Section 29185 of the Penal Code, or CNC milling machine that, as described in that section, is marketed or sold as, or reasonably designed or intended to be used to manufacture or produce a firearm.

(h) “Reasonable controls” means reasonable procedures, acts, or practices that are designed, implemented, and enforced to do the following:

(1) Prevent the sale or distribution of a firearm-related product to a straw purchaser, a firearm trafficker, a person prohibited from

1 possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a person who
2 the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe is at
3 substantial risk of using a firearm-related product to harm
4 themselves or another or of possessing or using a firearm-related
5 product unlawfully.

6 (2) Prevent the loss or theft of a firearm-related product from
7 the firearm industry member.

8 (3) Ensure that the firearm industry member complies with all
9 provisions of California and federal law and does not otherwise
10 promote the unlawful manufacture, sale, possession, marketing,
11 or use of a firearm-related product.

12 (4) Prevent the installation and use of a pistol converter, as
13 defined in Section 17015 of the Penal Code, with a firearm.

14 SEC. 2. Section 16880 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

15 16880. (a) As used in this part, “machinegun” means any
16 weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can readily be restored
17 to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual
18 reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

19 (b) The term “machinegun” also includes the frame or receiver
20 of any weapon described in subdivision (a), any part designed and
21 intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed
22 and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun,
23 and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be
24 assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control
25 of a person.

26 (c) The term “machinegun” also includes any weapon deemed
27 by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
28 Explosives as readily convertible to a machinegun under Chapter
29 53 (commencing with Section 5801) of Title 26 of the United
30 States Code.

31 (d) The term “machinegun” also includes any
32 machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter,
33 as defined in Section 17015.

34 SEC. 3. Section 16885 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

35 16885. (a) As used in this part, “machinegun-convertible
36 pistol” means any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger
37 bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common
38 household tools, as defined in Section 4082 of Title 11 of the
39 California Code of Regulations, into a machinegun by the
40 installation or attachment of a pistol converter as a replacement

1 for the slide's backplate without any additional engineering,
2 machining, or modification of the pistol's trigger mechanism.

3 (b) A machinegun-convertible pistol does not include a
4 hammer-fired semiautomatic pistol or striker-fired semiautomatic
5 pistol lacking a cruciform trigger bar, which instead has a trigger
6 bar that is shielded from interference by a pistol converter.

7 (c) A polymer notch or other piece of polymer molded into the
8 rear of the pistol frame does not prevent ready conversion into a
9 machinegun and will not prevent a pistol from qualifying under
10 this definition.

11 SEC. 4. Section 17015 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

12 17015. "Pistol converter" means any device or instrument that
13 when installed in or attached to the rear of the slide of a
14 semiautomatic pistol, replaces the backplate, and interferes with
15 the trigger mechanism and thereby enables the pistol to shoot
16 automatically more than one shot by a single function of the trigger.
17 A pistol converter includes, but is not limited to, a pistol converter
18 manufactured using a three-dimensional printer, as defined in
19 Section 29185.

20 SEC. 5. Section 27595 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

21 27595. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (c), commencing
22 on January 1, 2026, a firearms dealer licensed pursuant to Sections
23 26700 to 26920, shall not sell, offer for sale, exchange, give,
24 transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible
25 pistol, as defined in Section 16885.

26 (b) (1) A violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable by a
27 fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

28 (2) A second violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable
29 by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and may
30 result in the suspension or revocation of the dealer's license issued
31 under Sections 26700 to 26920, inclusive, and removal of the
32 firearms dealer from any centralized list maintained by the
33 Department of Justice pursuant to Sections 26715, 28450, and
34 29060.

35 (3) A third violation of subdivision (a) is a misdemeanor and
36 shall result in the revocation of the dealer's license issued under
37 Sections 26700 to 26920, inclusive, and removal of the firearms
38 dealer from any centralized list maintained by the Department
39 pursuant to Sections 26715, 28450, and 29060.

40 (c) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

1 (1) A machinegun-convertible pistol delivered to a firearms
2 dealer prior to January 1, 2026.

3 (2) The sale of a machinegun-convertible pistol to ~~a~~ *any of the*
4 *following entities for lawful use in the discharge of their official*
5 *duties:*

6 (A) A police department, sheriff's office, probation department,
7 marshal's office, district attorney's office, the California Highway
8 Patrol, the Department of Justice, the Department of Corrections
9 and ~~Rehabilitation, or the military or naval forces of this state or~~
10 ~~of the United States for use in the discharge of their official duties.~~
11 *Rehabilitation.*

12 (B) *Any state agency listed in paragraph (6) or paragraph (7)*
13 *of subdivision (b) of Section 32000.*

14 (C) *The military or naval forces of this state or of the United*
15 *States.*

16 (3) A private party to private party transaction conducted
17 through a licensed firearms dealer pursuant to Chapter 5
18 (commencing with Section 28050).

19 (4) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to a gunsmith
20 or other qualified entity for service or repair.

21 (5) The sale or transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to a
22 firearms dealer licensed pursuant to Sections 26700 to 26920,
23 inclusive, or to federally licensed firearms manufacturers or dealers
24 outside California.

25 (6) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol back to a
26 private party after temporary safekeeping storage pursuant to
27 Section 26892.

28 (7) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol back to a
29 private party after a period of temporary prohibition pursuant to
30 Section 29830.

31 (8) A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to any forensic
32 laboratory or forensic laboratory employee, while on duty and
33 acting within the scope and course of employment.

34 SEC. 6. Section 27595.1 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

35 27595.1. The Department of Justice is authorized to adopt
36 regulations to implement Section 27595. Regulations adopted
37 pursuant to Section 27595 are exempt from the Administrative
38 Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of
39 Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

1 SEC. 7. If any section, subsection, sentence, or clause of this
2 act is for any reason declared unconstitutional, invalid, or
3 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision
4 shall not affect the constitutionality, validity, or enforceability of
5 the remaining portions of this act or any part thereof. The
6 Legislature hereby declares that it would have adopted this act
7 notwithstanding the unconstitutionality, invalidity, or
8 unenforceability of any one or more of its sections, subsections,
9 sentences, or clauses.

10 SEC. 8. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
11 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
12 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
13 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
14 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
15 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
16 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
17 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
18 Constitution.