

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 17, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 25, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2025

SENATE BILL

No. 704

Introduced by Senator Arreguín
(Coauthor: Senator Blakespear)

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 January 1, 2027, this~~

*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 also prohibit a person from possessing a firearm barrel with the intent to sell, or offering to sell, unless the person is a licensed firearms dealer. ~~The Commencing on July 1, 2027, except as specified, the bill would require the licensed firearms dealer to conduct a background~~ an eligibility 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 make a first and 2nd violation of these provisions punishable as a misdemeanor, and any additional violations punishable as a misdemeanor or a felony, as specified. *The bill would require the department to require the licensed firearms dealer to charge a fee up to \$5 for each firearm barrel eligibility check, as specified.* 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.

The bill would declare the severability of its provisions.

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. (a) As used in Section 33700, “firearm barrel” means
- 4 the tube, usually metal and cylindrical, through which a projectile
- 5 or shot charge is fired. A firearm barrel includes ~~a firearm barrel~~
- 6 *any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar*
- 7 *article* that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily
- 8 be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as a firearm
- 9 barrel, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be
- 10 used as a firearm barrel once completed, assembled, or converted.
- 11 A firearm barrel may have a rifled or smooth bore.

1 (b) A firearm barrel that is attached or affixed to a firearm is
2 not subject to the requirements of Section 33700.

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

4 28235. Except as otherwise provided in Section 28233, moneys
5 received by the department pursuant to this article shall be
6 deposited in the Dealers’ Record of Sale Special Account of the
7 General Fund, which is hereby created, to be available, upon
8 appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by the department
9 to offset the costs incurred pursuant to any of the following:

- 10 (a) This article.
- 11 (b) Section 18910.
- 12 (c) Section 27555.
- 13 (d) Subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 27560.
- 14 (e) Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section 28010).
- 15 (f) Article 6 (commencing with Section 28450).
- 16 (g) Section 31110.
- 17 (h) Section 31115.
- 18 (i) Subdivision (a) of Section 32020.
- 19 (j) Section 32670.
- 20 (k) Section 33320.
- 21 (l) Section 33700.

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

24
25 CHAPTER 11. FIREARM BARREL

26
27 33700. (a) (1) ~~Commencing January 1, 2027,~~ *A firearm barrel, as*
28 *defined in Section 16525, shall not be sold or transferred unless*
29 *that transaction is completed in person by a firearms dealer*
30 *licensed pursuant to Sections 26700 to 26915, inclusive.*

31 (2) *Commencing July 1, 2027,* a firearm barrel, as defined in
32 Section 16525, shall not be sold or transferred unless that
33 transaction is completed in person by a firearms dealer licensed
34 pursuant to Sections 26700 to 26915, inclusive, and the licensed
35 firearms dealer has conducted ~~a background~~ *an eligibility* check
36 *to determine if that the person is authorized to purchase a firearm,*
37 ~~ammunition, and a firearm barrel~~ *under subdivision (b) in a manner*
38 *prescribed by the department. Department of Justice.*

39 (2) ~~Commencing January 1, 2027,~~ a firearm barrel shall only
40 be possessed with the intent to be sold or offered to be sold by a

1 ~~firearms dealer licensed pursuant to Sections 26700 to 26915,~~
2 ~~inclusive.~~

3 (3) *No person shall possess with the intent to sell or offer to sell*
4 *a firearm barrel in violation of this section.*

5 (b) A person is authorized to purchase *or otherwise acquire* a
6 firearm barrel if they meet the following criteria:

7 (1) They are at least 18 years of age.

8 (2) They are not prohibited from ~~possessing~~ *possessing,*
9 *receiving, owning,* or purchasing a firearm under state or federal
10 law.

11 (c) ~~The Commencing July 1, 2027, the~~ licensed firearms dealer
12 shall legibly record all of the following on a form to be prescribed
13 by the ~~Department of Justice~~ *department* pertaining to the sale or
14 transfer of the firearm barrel:

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

16 (2) The purchaser’s or transferee’s driver’s license or other
17 identification number and the state in which it was issued.

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

20 (4) The purchaser’s or transferee’s full name.

21 (5) The name of the salesperson who processed the sale or
22 transfer.

23 (6) The purchaser’s or transferee’s full residential address and
24 telephone number.

25 (7) The purchaser’s or transferee’s date of birth.

26 (d) ~~Commencing January~~ *July 1, 2027,* a licensed firearms dealer
27 shall electronically submit to the department the information
28 required by subdivision (c) for all sales and transfers of ownership
29 of a firearm barrel. ~~The department shall not retain this information~~
30 ~~once the background check is completed and the firearm barrel~~
31 ~~has been listed as delivered to the purchaser or transferee.~~

32 (e) ~~The Department of Justice~~ *department* is authorized to adopt
33 regulations to implement this act.

34 (f) (1) A first violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable
35 as a misdemeanor.

36 (2) A second violation of subdivision (a) shall be punishable as
37 a misdemeanor by up to one year in jail and a fine of one thousand
38 dollars (\$1,000).

39 (3) A third violation of subdivision (a), and any subsequent
40 violation thereafter of subdivision (a), shall be punishable by

1 imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year or pursuant
2 to subdivision (h) of Section 1170, or by a fine not to exceed two
3 thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

4 (g) The following are exempt from the process outlined in this
5 section:

6 (1) Sales or transfers to federal, state, and local law enforcement
7 agencies.

8 (2) Sales or transfers to a federal firearms licensee.

9 (3) Sales or transfers to the United States military.

10 (4) Sales or transfers to a person who, in the same transaction,
11 is separately purchasing a firearm and undergoing a state and
12 federal firearm ~~background~~ *eligibility* check pursuant to Section
13 28220.

14 (5) Sales or transfers to a federally licensed collector who is
15 acquiring or being loaned the barrel of a firearm that is a curio or
16 relic, as defined in Section 478.11 of Title 27 of the Code of
17 Federal Regulations, who has a current certificate of eligibility
18 issued by the department pursuant to Section 26710.

19 (6) *Transfers to or from the public administrator, public*
20 *guardian, public conservator, the executor, personal representative,*
21 *guardian, conservator, or administrator of an estate. Any transfers*
22 *or sales from these persons to any third party other than law*
23 *enforcement or a licensed firearms dealer shall be conducted by*
24 *a licensed firearms dealer and is subject to the requirements of*
25 *this section.*

26 (7) A barrel that is attached to or affixed to a firearm.

27 (8) *The sale or other transfer of ownership of a firearm barrel*
28 *if the sale or other transfer of ownership is to an authorized*
29 *representative of a city, city and county, county, or state*
30 *government, or of the federal government, and the entity is*
31 *acquiring the firearm barrel as part of an authorized, voluntary*
32 *program in which the entity is buying or receiving weapons from*
33 *private individuals. All such barrels shall be disposed of pursuant*
34 *to Sections 18000 and 18005.*

35 (h) The department is authorized to adopt regulations to
36 implement the provisions of this section.

37 (i) *The department shall require the licensed firearms dealer*
38 *to charge each firearm barrel purchaser or transferee a fee of up*
39 *to 5 dollars (\$5) to conduct the eligibility check described in*
40 *paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), but shall not to exceed the*

1 *department's actual processing costs. The fee may be increased*
2 *each year by an amount not to exceed one dollar (\$1) as necessary*
3 *to reimburse the department for costs to conduct the eligibility*
4 *check.*

5 SEC. 4. The provisions of this act are severable. If any
6 provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity
7 shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given
8 effect without the invalid provision or application.

9 SEC. 5. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
10 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
11 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
12 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
13 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
14 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
15 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
16 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
17 Constitution.