



FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

LENA A. GONZALEZ

SENATOR 33RD SENATE DISTRICT

SB 1253 (Gonzalez) Enhanced Firearm Safety Certifications Act

SUMMARY

Senate Bill (SB) 1253 will require individuals who move to California with firearms to receive a Firearm Safety Certificate.

EXISTING LAW

SB 683 (Block, Chapter 761, Statutes of 2013) requires any person who purchases or receives a firearm to possess a Firearm Safety Certificate (FSC), and makes a violation of this requirement punishable as a misdemeanor.

Assembly Bill 809 (Feuer, Chapter 745, Statutes of 2011) requires any person who moves into California with a firearm to be considered a "Personal Firearm Importer" and requires them to report their firearm ownership to the California Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bureau of Firearms within 60 days of arriving in the state.

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

Current law requires a person to obtain a FSC before they can purchase or receive any firearm, except under certain specified conditions. To obtain a FSC an applicant must score at least 75% correct on the FSC test covering firearm safety and laws, and must pass a safe handling demonstration performed under the supervision of a DOJ Certified Instructor.¹

The DOJ is required to develop and periodically update a study guide and written FSC test, and is authorized to charge a fee of \$25 for a FSC, which is valid for period of 5 years.²

However, certain safety loopholes exist under current law. Consequently, a person who moves to California with firearms are not required to take an FSC test.

A lack of knowledge and regular upkeep on safe firearm handling practices can, and has led to, unintended and preventable tragedies. According to the DOJ Office of Gun Violence Prevention's 2023 Data Report, there were 69,136 gunshot wound incidents in California from 2016-2021 that resulted in death or that required urgent medical attention.³ Of these 69,000 gunshot wounds, almost a third (31%) were from unintended and accidental shootings.

Beginning in 2020, firearms surpassed vehicle accidents as the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Additionally, most accidental firearm injuries among children occur within the home, with two-thirds of the shooters having been playing with or showing the firearm to others when it was discharged and shot a child.⁴

SOLUTION

SB 1253 will close this unsafe loophole in California's firearm safety law by requiring Californians who move

¹ <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/fscfaq#a2>

² <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/fsc>

³ <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/OGVP-Data-Report-2022.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7250a1.htm>

into California from another state, to receive a Firearm Safety Certificate.

A requirement for all registered firearm owners to take the FSC course will lead to a more informed firearm ownership population and help reduce unintended gun deaths and injuries in California.

SUPPORT

Consumer Protection Policy Center at USD School of Law
(Sponsor)

Brady Campaign

Brady California

City of Alameda

San Diego City Attorney's Office

Children's Advocacy Institute at University of San Diego

CONTACT

Marissa Hagerman

(916) 651-4033

Marissa.Hagerman@sen.ca.gov

