
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Jesse Arreguin, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 584 **Hearing Date:** June 10, 2025
Author: Hadwick
Version: March 12, 2025
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: AB

Subject: *Firearms dealers and manufacturers: secure facilities*

HISTORY

Source: California Rifle and Pistol Association

Prior Legislation: AB 1420 (Berman), Ch. 245, Stats. of 2024
SB 241 (Min), Ch. 250, Stats. of 2023
SB 1384 (Min), Ch. 995, Stats. of 2022
AB 1064 (Muratsuchi), held in Assembly Appropriations, 2019
SB 220 (Hill), died on Assembly Floor, 2019
SB 464 (Hill), vetoed by the Governor, 2017
AB 2459 (McCarty), failed in Assembly Privacy, 2016

Support: Unknown

Opposition: None known

Assembly Floor Vote: 75 - 0

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to provide licensed firearm dealers with an additional installation option for meeting “secure facility” requirements related to perimeter doors.

Existing law generally prohibits the sale, lease or transfer of firearms unless the transaction is completed through a dealer licensed by the Department of Justice (DOJ), and establishes various exceptions to this prohibition. (Pen. Code, §§ 26500 – 26625)

Existing law requires a firearms dealer or licensee to meet all the following requirements:

- Have a valid federal firearms license;
- Have any regulatory or business license, or licenses, required by local government;
- Have a valid seller’s permit issued by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration;
- Have a certificate of eligibility issued by the DOJ, as specified;

- Have a license issued in a specified format; and,
- Be recorded in the DOJ's centralized list of licensees. (Pen. Code, § 26700.)

Existing law requires DOJ to keep a centralized list of all persons licensed to sell, lease or transfer firearms at retail. (Pen. Code, § 26715, subd. (a).)

Existing law provides that a license to sell firearms is subject to forfeiture for any violation of a number of specified prohibitions and requirements, with limited exceptions. (Pen. Code, § 26800(a).)

Existing law requires the DOJ to conduct inspections of all firearms dealers at least once every three years, except as specified, to ensure compliance with certain specified statutes and any other applicable state law, and authorizes DOJ to assess an annual fee not to exceed \$115 to cover the cost of maintaining the centralized list of licensees. (Pen. Code, § 26720, subd. (a)(1).)

Existing law provides that at any time when the licensee is not open for business, all inventory firearms shall be stored in the licensed location and using one of the following methods as to each particular firearm:

- Store the firearm in a secure facility that is a part of, or that constitutes, the licensee's business premises.
- Secure the firearm with a hardened steel rod or cable of at least one-eighth inch in diameter through the trigger guard of the firearm. The steel rod or cable shall be secured with a hardened steel lock that has a shackle. The lock and shackle shall be protected or shielded from the use of a bolt cutter and the rod or cable shall be anchored in a manner that prevents the removal of the firearm from the premises.
- Store the firearm in a locked fireproof safe or vault in the licensee's business premises.

Existing law provides that for the purposes of regulating firearms dealers, "secure facility" means that the facility satisfies all of the following:

- All perimeter doorways shall meet one of the following:
 - A windowless steel security door equipped with both a dead bolt and a doorknob lock.
 - A windowed metal door that is equipped with both a dead bolt and a doorknob lock. If the window has an opening of five inches or more measured in any direction, the window shall be covered with steel bars of at least one-half of an inch diameter or metal grating of at least nine gauge affixed to the exterior or interior of the door.
 - A metal grate that is padlocked and affixed to the licensee's premises independent of the door and doorframe.
- All windows are covered with steel bars.

- Heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and service openings are secured with steel bars, metal grating, or an alarm system.
- Any metal grates have spaces no larger than six inches wide measured in any direction.
- Any metal screens have spaces no larger than three inches wide measured in any direction.
- All steel bars shall be no further than six inches apart. (Pen. Code, § 17110.)

Existing law provides that for the purposes of specified provisions related to firearm manufacturers, “secure facility” means that the facility satisfies all of the following:

- The facility is equipped with a burglar alarm with central monitoring.
- All perimeter entries to areas in which firearms are stored other than doors, including windows and skylights, are secured with steel window guards or an audible, silent, or sonic alarm to detect entry.
- All perimeter doorways are designed in one of the following ways:
 - A windowless steel security door equipped with both a deadbolt and a doorknob lock.
 - A windowed metal door equipped with both a deadbolt and a doorknob lock. If the window has an opening of five inches or more measured in any direction, the window is covered with steel bars of at least one-half of an inch diameter or metal grating of at least nine gauge affixed to the exterior or interior of the door.
 - A metal grate that is padlocked and affixed to the licensee’s premises independent of the door and doorframe.
 - Hinges and hasps attached to doors by welding, riveting, or bolting with nuts on the inside of the door.
 - Hinges and hasps installed so that they cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.
- Heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and service openings are secured with steel bars, metal grating, or an alarm system.
- No perimeter metal grates are capable of being entered by any person.
- Steel bars that are not capable of being entered by any person.
- Perimeter walls of rooms in which firearms are stored are constructed of concrete or at least 10-gauge expanded steel wire mesh utilized along with typical wood frame and drywall construction. If firearms are not stored in a vault, the facility shall use an exterior

security-type door along with a high security, single-key deadbolt, or other door that is more secure. All firearms shall be stored in a separate room away from any general living area or work area. Any door to the storage facility shall be locked while unattended.

- Perimeter doorways, including the loading dock area, are locked at all times when not attended by paid employees or contracted employees, including security guards.
- Except when a firearm is currently being tested, any ammunition on the premises is removed from all manufactured guns and stored in a separate and locked room, cabinet, or box away from the storage area for the firearms. Ammunition may be stored with a weapon only in a locked safe. (Pen. Code, § 29141.)

Existing law authorizes a licensed firearms manufacturer that produces fewer than 500 firearms a year within California to alternatively maintain a “secure facility” by designing a security plan that is approved by the DOJ or the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which is then required to be submitted to federal and local authorities, as defined. (Pen. Code, § 29142, subs. (a)-(c).)

This bill provides that, for the purposes of the definition of “secure facility” that applies to both licensed firearm dealers and certain firearm manufacturers, a “perimeter doorway” may include a windowed or windowless steel door that is equipped with panic hardware that operates a multipoint lock that bolts into the interior frame of the door.

This bill states that the windowed or windowless steel door specified above must have a latch guard over the bolt closest to the primary locking bolt to protect it from prying or cutting.

This bill specifies that if the door is windowed and the window has an opening of five inches or more measured in any direction, the window shall be covered with steel bars of at least one-half of an inch diameter or metal grating of at least nine gauge affixed to the exterior or interior of the door.

COMMENTS

1. Need for This Bill

According to the Author:

California law currently puts sporting goods stores that sell firearms in an impossible situation between safely securing their business and safely allowing customers to leave in an emergency. The law governing the security of firearms for stores has not been updated in over 25 years and does not reflect updated security door technology. This bill is a common sense solution that resolves a conflict in the law, gives stores another option to safely secure their firearms, and protects the public in an emergency.

2. Firearms Dealer Licensing and Secure Facility Requirements

Federal law requires firearms dealers to obtain a license (also known as a “federal firearms license,” or “FFL”) through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

According to the ATF, as of January 2025, there were 1,573 FFLs issued for firearms dealers and pawnbrokers in California, and a total of 11,126 FFLs in the state.¹ An FFL is necessary but not sufficient for obtaining a firearms dealer license in California. Additional requirements include any business license required by local government, a seller's permit issued by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, a seller's license issued by the local licensing authority of a local government, a certificate of eligibility (COE) issued by the DOJ (verifying that a background check has taken place), and being recorded on the DOJ's centralized list of firearms dealers.² In California, only individuals that have obtained a valid license through the DOJ may lawfully sell, lease or transfer firearms within the state, subject to limited exceptions.³

Existing California law also includes several explicit security requirements for licensed firearm dealers, including a general requirement that all firearms in the inventory of a licensee be kept at the dealer's licensed location.⁴ Additionally, existing law requires that any time when the licensee is not open for business, all inventory firearms must be stored in the licensed location, and all firearms must be secured using one of the following methods: storage in a "secure facility" that is part of or constitutes the licensee's business premises, secured by a hardened steel rod or cable, as specified, or stored in a locked fireproof safe or vault on the licensee's business premises.⁵ Licensed firearm manufacturers are subject to a related requirement that they store all manufactured firearms and firearm barrels in a secure facility.⁶

With regard to licensed firearm dealers that elect to store their firearms in a "secured facility" as opposed to one of the other options, existing law sets forth certain specifications that such a facility must meet in order to comply with the requirement. For instance, windows must be covered with steel bars, HVAC system and service openings must be secured with steel bars, metal grating or an alarm system, and all metal grates, screens and bars must meet specific requirements. Further, all perimeter doorways must meet one of three criteria: a windowless steel security door equipped with a dead bolt and doorknob lock, a windowed metal door with similar locking mechanisms and bars or grating over the window if it has an opening greater than 5 inches, or a metal grate that is padlocked and affixed to the licensee's premises independent of the door and doorframe.⁷

The Author argues that "FFLs must comply with the California Penal Code's definition of a 'secure facility' as a condition for a license to sell, lease, or transfer firearms at retail locations in the state of California, [but] this code section has not been updated in more than 25 years. [...] FFLs must also comply with the California Fire Code which requires exit doors for commercial buildings to be opened without tight grasping, tight pinching or twisting of the wrist (CA Fire Code Part 3, Chapter 10, 1010.2.2). The combination of both these requirements puts FFLs in the impossible position of complying with one requirement or the other, facing penalties up to

¹ "Report of Active Firearms Licenses – License Type by State Statistics." Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Print date: January 10, 2025. <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/undefined/0125-ffl-list-completpdf/download>; The vast majority (8,792) of FFLs are registered collectors of curios and relics.

² Pen. Code, § 26700.

³ Pen. Code, § 26500; see Penal Code §§27850 et. seq. for exceptions related to private party transfer.

⁴ Pen. Code, § 26885; A related provision requires the business of a licensee to be conducted only in the buildings designated in the license, except in limited cases, see Pen. Code, § 26805.

⁵ Pen. Code, § 26890;

⁶ Pen. Code, § 29140.

⁷ Per Pen. Code § 29141, firearm manufacturers have 2 additional options in securing perimeter doors to their premises in order to meet the definition of "secure facility."

license revocation and fines from the California Office of the Attorney General for the former or facing penalties from a Fire Marshall for the latter.”

Seeking to address this conflict, this bill provides licensed firearm dealers and manufacturers with an additional installation option for a perimeter door at their business location that complies with the definition of “secure facility.” Specifically, the bill permits licensees to install a windowed or windowless steel door that is equipped with panic hardware that operates a multipoint lock that bolts into the interior frame of the door. If a licensee elects to install such a door, it must have a latch guard over the bolt closest to the primary locking bolt to protect it from prying or cutting, and if the door is windowed and the window has an opening of more than five inches in any direction, the window must be covered with steel bars or metal grating, as specified.

3. Argument in Support

According to the bill’s sponsor, the California Rifle and Pistol Association:

AB 584 helps protect Californians by increasing the safety of firearms dealers and manufacturers from criminal activity by allowing vastly improved security technology to be employed.

Currently the California Penal Code and California Code of Regulations are in conflict in regard to the requirements of security doors. This conflict is currently reducing the security of facilities instead of improving it. This bill will remove the conflicts and thus offer more secure options for firearms dealers and manufacturers.

This bill sets forward options to meet legal requirements will enable firearms dealers and manufacturers to access the latest, safest, and most reliable security options while not compromising the safety of their customers and staff. This bill is a win in the fight to make Californians safer.

-- END --