
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Senator Jesse Arreguín, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 1127 **Hearing Date:** July 1, 2025
Author: Gabriel
Version: June 19, 2025
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: AB

Subject: *Firearms: converter pistols*

HISTORY

Source: Everytown for Gun Safety; Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; Students Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Prior Legislation: AB 1089 (Gipson), Ch. 243, Stats. of 2023
AB 97 (Rodriguez), Ch. 233, Stats. of 2023
AB 1621 (Gipson), Ch. 76, Stats. of 2022
AB 1594 (Ting), Ch. 98, Stats. of 2022
AB 857 (Cooper), Ch. 60, Stats. of 2016)

Support: Brady Campaign and Brady California; California-Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP; Chapman University Students Demand Action; City of Alameda; Equality California; Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence; Hispanic Federation; Monte Vista Students Demand Action; Newtown Action Alliance; North County San Diego Students Demand Action; Occidental College Students Demand Action; San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention; Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office; UCLA Students Demand Action; The Chamberlain Network; Vet Voice Foundation; 40 faith leaders from across California; 6 California mayors; 50+ Individuals

Opposition: Gun Owners of California, Inc.

Assembly Floor Vote: 58 - 17

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit licensed firearm dealers from selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring, or delivering any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol, except as specified.

Existing law establishes the “Firearm Industry Responsibility Act” (hereinafter, “FIRA”) which allows for civil actions to be brought against firearm industry members who deal in abnormally dangerous firearm-related products. (Civ. Code, § 3273.50 et seq.)

Existing law defines the following for the purposes of FIRA:

- “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.
- “Firearm industry member” means 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.
- “Firearm manufacturing machine” means a three-dimensional printer, as defined, or computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine that is marketed or sold as, or reasonably designed or intended to be used to manufacture or produce a firearm.
- “Reasonable controls” means reasonable procedures, acts, or practices that are designed, implemented, and enforced to do the following:
 - Prevent the sale or distribution of a firearm-related product to a straw purchaser, a firearm trafficker, a person prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a person who the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe is at substantial risk of using a firearm-related product to harm themselves or another or of possessing or using a firearm-related product unlawfully.
 - Prevent the loss or theft of a firearm-related product from the firearm industry member.
 - Ensure that the firearm industry member complies with all provisions of California and federal law and does not otherwise promote the unlawful manufacture, sale, possession, marketing, or use of a firearm-related product. (Civ. Code, § 3273.50, subds. (c), (f), (g), (h).)

Existing law provides that a firearm industry member must comply with the firearm industry standard of conduct; and it shall be a violation of the firearm industry standard of conduct for a firearm industry member to fail to comply with any requirement below:

- A firearm industry member shall do both of the following:
 - Establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls.
 - Take reasonable precautions to ensure that the firearm industry member does not sell, distribute, or provide a firearm-related product to a downstream distributor or retailer of firearm-related products who fails to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls.

- A firearm industry member shall not manufacture, market, import, offer for wholesale, or offer for retail sale a firearm-related product that is likely to create an unreasonable risk of harm to public health and safety, as provided.
- A firearm industry member shall not engage in any conduct related to the sale or marketing of firearm-related products, as specified. (Civ. Code, § 3273.51, subds. (a)-(d).)

This bill, for the purposes of liability under FIRA, expands the definition of “reasonable controls” to include reasonable procedures, acts or practices that are designed, implemented and enforced to prevent the installation and use of a pistol converter with a firearm.

Existing law generally prohibits the sale, lease or transfer of firearms by any person unless they have been issued a license by the Department of Justice (DOJ), and establishes various exceptions to this prohibition. (Pen. Code, §§ 26500 – 26625.)

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, subd. (a).)

Existing law includes several exemptions from the requirement that transfers go through a licensed dealer, including for the transfer of a firearm by bequest or intestate succession, or to a surviving spouse, or transfers by a person acting pursuant to operation of law, a court order, or pursuant to other specified laws. (Pen. Code, §§ 26505, 26515.)

Existing law provides that where neither party to a firearms transaction holds a dealer’s license (i.e. a “private party transaction”), the parties shall complete the transaction through a licensed firearms dealer. (Pen. Code, § 27545.)

Existing law requires that in connection with any sale, loan or transfer of a firearm, a licensed dealer must provide the DOJ with specified personal information about the seller and purchaser as well as the name and address of the dealer. This personal information of buyer and seller required to be provided includes: the name; address; phone number; date of birth; place of birth; occupation; eye color; hair color; height; weight; race; sex; citizenship status; and a driver's license number; California identification card number; or, military identification number. A copy of the Dealer’s Record of Sale (DROS), containing the buyer and seller's personal information, must be provided to the buyer or seller upon request. (Pen. Code, §§ 28160, 28210, & 28215.)

Existing law establishes various crimes related to the sale, lease or transfer of firearms, including a prohibition on the sale or transfer of a firearm that is not serialized, as provided. (Pen. Code, §§ 27500 et. seq., 27530.)

Existing law requires the DOJ to participate in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), and specifies the process DOJ must follow in notifying various parties that a prospective firearm purchaser is prohibited from acquiring a firearm under state or federal law. (Pen. Code, § 28220.)

Existing law sets forth a definition of “unsafe handgun” for both revolvers and pistols, which applies to the provisions listed below:

- A revolver meets the definition of “unsafe handgun” if it 1) does not have a safety device that causes the hammer to retract to a point where the firing pin does not rest upon the primer of the cartridge, 2) does not meet the firing requirements for handguns, as specified, or 3) does not meet the drop safety requirement for handguns.
- A pistol meets the definition of “unsafe handgun” if 1) it does not have a positive manually operated safety device, as specified, 2) it does not meet the firing requirement for handguns, 3) it does not meet the drop safety requirement for handguns, 4) it does not have a chamber load indicator, 5) it does not have a magazine disconnect mechanism if it has a detachable magazine, or 6) it is not designed and equipped with a microscopic array of characters used to identify the pistol, as specified (see more below). (Pen. Code § 31910, subds. (a), (b).)

Existing law provides that a person in this state who manufactures or causes to be manufactured, imports into the state for sale, keeps for sale, offers or exposes for sale, gives, or lends an unsafe handgun shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, and that other specified violations may be punished by specified civil penalties. (Pen. Code, § 32000, subd. (a).)

Existing law defines “firearm” for most provisions of the Penal Code related to firearms as 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. (Pen. Code, § 16520, subd. (a).)

Existing law provides that for numerous specified provisions, the definition of “firearm” includes the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver or firearm precursor part. (Pen. Code, § 16520, subd. (b).)

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. (Pen. Code, § 16531, subd. (a).)

Existing law prohibits the purchase, sale, offer for sale, or transfer of ownership of any firearm precursor part that is not a federally regulated firearm precursor part, except as specified. (Pen. Code, §§ 30400, 30420.)

Existing law establishes what firearms fall into the category of “assault weapons” and generally prohibits the purchase, sale, possession and transfer of such weapons. (Pen. Code, §§ 30500 et. seq.)

Existing law defines “multiburst trigger activator” as either of the following:

- A device designed or redesigned to be attached to, built into, or used in conjunction with, a semiautomatic firearm, which allows the firearm to discharge two or more shots in a burst by activating the device.

- A manual or power-driven trigger activating device constructed and designed so that when attached to, built into, or used in conjunction with, a semiautomatic firearm it increases the rate of fire of that firearm. (Pen. Code, § 16930, subd. (a).)

Existing law provides that any person who manufactures or causes to be manufactured, imports into the state, keeps for sale, or offers or exposes for sale, or who gives, lends, or possesses any multiburst trigger activator is guilty of a misdemeanor or felony, as provided. (Pen. Code, § 32900.)

Existing law defines “machinegun” as any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can readily be restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger, and specifies that the term also includes the following:

- The frame or receiver of any weapon described immediately above, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if those parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.
- Any weapon deemed by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as readily convertible to a machinegun under specified provisions of federal law. (Pen. Code, § 16880.)

Existing law provides that any person, firm, or corporation, who within this state possesses or knowingly transports a machinegun, except as authorized, is guilty of a felony, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 32625, subd. (a).)

Existing law provides that any person, firm, or corporation who within this state intentionally converts a firearm into a machinegun, or who sells, or offers for sale, or knowingly manufactures a machinegun, except as authorized, is guilty of a felony, as specified. (Pen. Code, § 32625, subd. (b).)

This bill defines the following terms:

- “Machinegun-convertible pistol” means any semiautomatic pistol with a cruciform trigger bar that can be readily converted by hand or with common household tools, as defined, into a machinegun by the installation or attachment of a pistol converter as a replacement for the slide’s backplate without any additional engineering machining, or modification of the pistol’s trigger mechanism.
 - A machinegun convertible pistol does not include a hammer-fired semiautomatic pistol or striker-fired semiautomatic pistol lacking a cruciform trigger bar, which instead has a trigger bar that is shielded from interference by a pistol converter.
 - A polymer notch or other piece of polymer molded into the rear of the pistol frame does not prevent ready conversion into a machinegun and will not prevent a pistol from qualifying under this definition.

- “Pistol converter” means 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.
 - A pistol converter includes, but is not limited to, a pistol converter manufactured using a three-dimensional printer.

This bill expands the existing definition of “machinegun” to include any machinegun-convertible pistol equipped with a pistol converter.

This bill provides that commencing January 1, 2026, a licensed firearms dealer shall not sell, offer for sale, exchange, give, transfer, or deliver any semiautomatic machinegun-convertible pistol.

This bill imposes the following penalty schedule for a violation of the above prohibition:

- A first offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000.
- A second offense is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 and may result in the suspension or revocation of the dealer’s license.
- A third violation is a misdemeanor and shall result in the revocation of the dealer’s license.

This bill establishes the following exemptions to the prohibition:

- A machinegun-convertible pistol delivered to a firearms dealer prior to January 1, 2026.
- The sale of a machinegun-convertible pistol to a police department, sheriff’s office, probation department, marshal’s office, district attorney’s office, the California Highway Patrol, the DOJ, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, or the military or naval forces of this state or of the United States for use in the discharge of their official duties.
- A private party to private party transaction conducted through a licensed firearms dealer.
- A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to a gunsmith or other qualified entity for service or repair.
- The sale or transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol to a firearms dealer or to federally licensed firearms manufacturers or dealers outside California.
- A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol back to a private party after temporary safekeeping storage, as specified.
- A transfer of a machinegun-convertible pistol back to a private party after a period of temporary prohibition.

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

This bill authorizes the DOJ to adopt regulations to implement its provisions.

This bill includes a severability clause.

COMMENTS

1. Need for This Bill

According to the Author:

The increased prevalence of automatic weapons across the nation is deeply concerning. We all agree that machine guns have no place in our communities, yet a select few gun manufacturers refuse to address a deadly design flaw with their guns that allows them to be converted into dangerous automatic weapons. Assembly Bill 1127 seeks to protect communities from mass shootings and gun violence by preventing easy conversion of semi-automatic firearms to fully automatic machine guns. Most handguns designs don't have this flaw, and this legislation will ensure the limited number of gun manufacturers who refuse to address this begin to do their part to keep deadly automatic weapons off our streets.

2. California's Unsafe Handgun Law Generally

In 1999, the Legislature passed SB 15 (Polanco, Ch. 248, Stats. of 1999), also known as the Unsafe Handgun Act (UHA), which made it a misdemeanor for any person in California to manufacture, import for sale, offer for sale, give, or lend any unsafe handgun, with certain specific exceptions. SB 15 defined an "unsafe handgun" as a handgun that (1) does not meet a specified "drop safety" test, (2) does not meet specified firing tests, and (3) does not have a requisite safety device.¹ The law also required DOJ to compile and publish a roster listing all of the handguns and concealable firearms that they deem "not unsafe" and which are certified for sale in the state.² A subsequent reform, enacted in 2003, added new design safety requirements for semiautomatic pistols.³

In 2007, the Legislature enacted AB 1471 (Feuer, Ch. 572, Stats. of 2007), which made microstamping capability a prerequisite for any semiautomatic pistol not already designated a safe handgun to be placed on the DOJ roster. That measure defined microstamping capability as "a microscopic array of characters that identify the make, model and serial number of the pistol, etched in 2 or more places on the interior surface or internal working parts of the pistol, and that are transferred by imprinting on each cartridge case when the firearm is fired."⁴ AB 1471 delayed implementation of the microstamping prerequisite until January 1, 2010, "provided that the

¹ Pen. Code, §§ 31900, 31905, 31910

² Pen. Code, § 32015

³ SB 489 (Scott, Ch. 500, Stats. of 2003) requires that for a new semiautomatic center-fire pistol firearm to be added to the roster it has to be equipped with a chamber load indicator and a magazine disconnect (if it has a detachable magazine).

⁴ Penal Code § 31910(a)(6)(A).

Department of Justice certifies that the technology used to create the imprint is available to more than one manufacturer unencumbered by any patent restrictions.” On May 17, 2013, the DOJ certified the microstamping technology required by AB 1471.⁵ In 2020, the Legislature passed AB 2847 (Chiu, Ch. 292, Stats. of 2020), which required microstamp markings in just one place on the interior of a firearm.⁶ And in 2023, the Legislature passed SB 452 (Blakespear, Ch. 253, Stats. of 2023), which modified and strengthened the microstamping requirement by removing it from the UHA altogether and, beginning in July 2028, prohibiting licensed firearm dealers from selling, offering, exchanging, giving or otherwise transferring a pistol unless it has been verified by the DOJ as a “microstamping-enabled pistol.”⁷

For a new handgun to be added to the DOJ roster, it must undergo rigorous testing by a DOJ-certified laboratory to ensure that it meets the strict requirements laid out above. But not all provisions of the unsafe handgun statute are clearly tied to consumer safety. For example, handguns for which “the annual maintenance fee is not paid” can also be removed from the certified roster, and thereby be declared unsafe. Moreover, a previously certified handgun can be removed from the roster if a manufacturer goes out of business because the proprietor retired.⁸ Even in cases where a handgun passes all testing requirements, DOJ is authorized to mandate retesting for the handguns of that model at a laboratory of its choosing if it has reason to believe that the model does not comply with the law. If a model fails but a “similar” of that model has been approved, the similar model can be de-rostered without testing. Relatedly, should the model that failed then get successfully retested and reinstated, DOJ is nevertheless permitted to keep the similar model off the roster despite never testing it for safety.⁹

3. “Glock Switches” and Effect of This Bill

Since the early 1990s, fully automatic “assault weapons” have been illegal in California, with strict penalties for their possession and sale. However, in advancing this bill, the Author identifies a growing problem related to the design of some semiautomatic pistols that allows them to be converted into fully automatic weapons. This conversion occurs with the use of a small device called a “switch,” often referred to as a “Glock switch” given that the overwhelming majority of handguns vulnerable to this conversion are produced by Glock, an Austrian firearms producer. Generally, these devices operate by snapping onto the rear of the gun, altering the trigger mechanism and enabling automatic firing. Some switches allow shooters to toggle between semi- and fully automatic firing modes, while others are designed solely for automatic firing and fit flush with the slide.

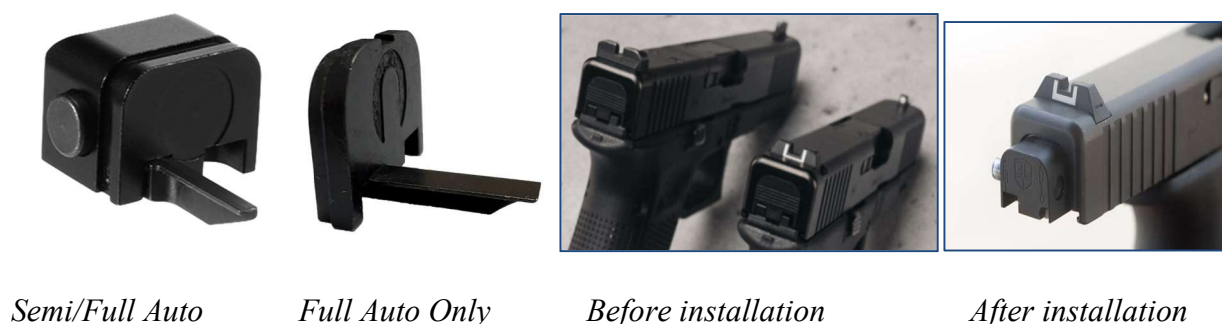
⁵ [Bureau of Firearms Information Bulletin 2013-BOF-03: Certification of Microstamping Technology Pursuant to Penal Code Section 31910, Subdivision \(b\)\(7\)\(A\)](#)

⁶ AB 2847 also required that for every safe new gun introduced in California, three unsafe guns on the roster that had been ‘grandfathered’ in would be removed from the roster.

⁷ Pen. Code, §§27531 – 27534.

⁸ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4070, subd. (c)(1).)

⁹ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4073



Existing California law includes several prohibitions regarding the use of these devices, which in code are referred to as “multiburst trigger activators.”¹⁰ Specifically, existing law prohibits the manufacture, import, keeping or sale, offering for sale, giving, lending or possession of such devices, punishable as a wobbler, and deems that such devices are public nuisances subject to confiscation and destruction.¹¹ Additionally, existing law prohibits people from possessing, selling, offering or knowingly manufacturing a machinegun without a permit, as well as intentionally converting a firearm into a machinegun.¹² A handgun utilizing a multiburst trigger activator or Glock switch falls within the definition of “machinegun,” which is defined identically by both California and federal law as “any weapon that shoots, is designed to shoot, or can readily be restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.”¹³

Despite these restrictions, the Author argues that the use of Glock switches has skyrocketed in recent years, and guns equipped with them are still a weapon of choice for criminals. The Author therefore submits this bill in an attempt encourage gun manufacturers to finally fix this dangerous design flaw and prevent their guns from being easily converted into exceptionally lethal weapons. Specifically, this bill prohibits licensed firearm dealers from selling, offering for sale, exchanging, giving, transferring, or delivering any semiautomatic “machinegun-convertible pistol.” A “machinegun-convertible pistol” means 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.”¹⁴ The bill imposes a penalty schedule for violations of this prohibition, with increasing penalties for each additional violation, with a third violation resulting in a misdemeanor and revocation of the dealer’s license. The bill also includes several exemptions to this prohibition, including for the sale of a machinegun-convertible pistol to specified law enforcement, private party transactions, transfers to gunsmiths for service or repair, transfer to a dealer, transfer to a private party after temporary storage for safekeeping, and transfer to a forensic laboratory, among others.

The various provisions of this bill raise several questions that the Author and Committee may wish to consider. Chiefly, from a holistic standpoint, as the vast majority of machinegun-convertible pistols are Glock handguns, the practical effect of the bill is to prohibit the sale of

¹⁰ Pen. Code, § 16930 defines “multiburst trigger activators.”

¹¹ Pen. Code, §§ 32900, 32990

¹² Pen. Code, § 32625, subds. (a)-(b).

¹³ Pen. Code, § 16880, subd. (a).)

¹⁴ The bill defines this term 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. A pistol converter includes, but is not limited to, a pistol converter manufactured using a three-dimensional printer.” This definition is similar, but not identical, to the definition of “multiburst trigger activator.”

Glock handguns in California. Currently, there are 54 Glock handguns approved for sale in California on the DOJ's roster of not unsafe handguns, all of which would no longer be available for purchase should the bill take effect.¹⁵ Is what is effectively a blanket ban on the sale of a certain brand of handgun a sufficiently tailored approach to addressing the criminal misuse of that handgun?

Some of the exemptions to the bill's central prohibition also raise questions. For instance, the bill prohibits the sale of machinegun-convertible pistols by dealers, but allows for the private party transfer of such firearms. Thus, in theory, an individual could stock up on Glocks prior to the bill's effective date,¹⁶ or purchase several Glocks from another state after the bill goes into effect, and sell them California's secondary market for a significant markup.¹⁷ Another exemption applies to machinegun-convertible pistols delivered to a firearms dealer prior to the effective date of the bill, essentially allowing dealers to sell whatever Glocks and other machinegun convertible pistols they already have in inventory when the bill goes into effect. Would this incentivize dealers to stockpile such weapons prior to January 1, 2026? Would a prospective ban on such weapons only incentivize buyers to purchase more of them? Finally, another exemption applies to the sale of machinegun-convertible pistols to several specified local and state law enforcement entities, as well as the military forces of the United States. However, while this exemption includes many state agencies, such as the DOJ, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the CHP, it omits many other agencies that employ sworn officers that currently use or may wish to use Glocks as a service weapon, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and others. The policy purpose behind allowing some agencies to acquire machinegun-convertible pistols but not others is unclear.

4. Constitutional Considerations

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." In *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022) 142 S. Ct. 2111, the Supreme Court of the United States established a new test for determining whether a law comports with the Second Amendment's right to bear arms, abrogating the earlier test that lower courts had been using since the Supreme Court's 2008 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) 554 U.S. 570. Under the *Bruen* test, the first inquiry is whether the Second Amendment's plain text covers the individual conduct at issue.¹⁸ Next, in defense of a law regulating firearms, the government must show more than that the regulation promotes an important governmental interest – rather, the law must be "consistent with this Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation."¹⁹ Under the *Bruen* decision, "how and why the regulations burden a law-abiding citizen's right to armed self-defense" matters, and further, "whether modern and historical regulations impose a comparable burden on the right of armed self-defense and whether that burden is comparably justified are 'central' considerations when engaging in an analogical inquiry."²⁰

¹⁵ [Handguns Certified for Sale | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#)

¹⁶ California law prohibits the purchase of more than one gun a month, so admittedly this may not be a high number of stockpiled weapons.

¹⁷ The failure to register these firearms with DOJ upon importing them may raise flags during an attempted private party sale, though it is unclear whether this would prevent the sale from going through.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 2129-2130.

¹⁹ *Id.* at p. 2132-2133.

²⁰ *Id.*

According to the Court’s opinion in *Bruen*, there is a historical tradition of statutes that “essentially prohibited bearing arms in a way that spread ‘fear’ or ‘terror’ among the people, including by carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons.” The Court in *Bruen* also made clear that handguns are “the quintessential self-defense weapon,” and that even if certain laws in America’s early history considered handguns dangerous and unusual at that time, they provide no justification for laws restricting the public carry of weapons that are unquestionably in common use today.²¹ Prior to the *Bruen* decision, under the *Heller* standard, courts had routinely held that because machineguns are “dangerous and unusual,” they fall outside of the 2nd Amendment’s protection.²² Since *Bruen*, however, multiple district courts have held not only that possession of machineguns is covered by the Second Amendment, but the federal ban on the possession of machineguns in 18 U.S.C. § 922, subdivision (o) is not consistent with the nation’s history of firearms regulation.²³ Further, the Supreme Court, in the 2024 case *Garland v. Cargill* (2024) 602 U.S. 406, ruled that “bump stocks,” which attach to a semiautomatic rifle and utilize the recoil of the firearm to increase its rate of fire, did not fall within the federal definition of “machinegun.”²⁴ Other federal courts, by contrast, have interpreted *Bruen* as not providing Second Amendment protection to machineguns.²⁵ Given these evolving and diverging interpretations of the Second Amendment’s applicability to machineguns and related conversion devices in the wake of *Bruen*, it is entirely possible that a constitutional challenge to this bill could succeed, even if machinegun-convertible pistols are considered “machineguns” for the purposes of such a challenge.

In any event, one central question to the constitutional analysis will be whether banning an entire brand of *handgun*, which are not, without additional modification, technically machineguns, creates a substantial burden on an individual’s fundamental right to possess a handgun. To shed light on this question, it may be useful to look at recent challenges to California’s UHA, which prohibits handguns deemed “unsafe” from being sold to the public. In March 2023, two district courts in California separately ruled that the chamber load indicator, magazine disconnect mechanism and microstamping provisions of the UHA, which require these features as prerequisites for inclusion on the roster of “not unsafe” handguns, were not consistent with America’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.²⁶ These cases, both of which are currently on appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal, suggest potential challenges in defending the constitutionality of this bill’s prohibition on the sale of machinegun-convertible pistols.

5. Double Referral

FIRA, which was enacted in 2022 by AB 1594 (Ting), Chapter 98, Statutes of 2022, created a “firearm industry standard of conduct” that applies to every “firearm industry member,” as defined, and which requires these members to engage in certain conduct and refrain from other

²¹ *Bruen* at 2143.

²² See, e.g. *Hollis v. Lynch* (5th Cir. 2016) 827 F.3d 436; *United States v. One Palmetto State Armory PA-15 Machingun Receiver/Frame* (3rd Cir. 2016) 822 F.3d 136.

²³ *United States v. Tamori Morgan*, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 152562, [show public doc](#). It should be noted that one of the charges in this case involved the illegal possession of a Glock switch; *United States v. Justin Bryce Brown* (2025) Case 3:23-cr-00123-CWR-ASH, [gov.uscourts.mssd.123238.28.0.pdf](#).

²⁴ *Garland v. Cargill* (2024) 602 U.S. 406; it should be noted that *Garland* was not a Second Amendment case, but rather a case of statutory interpretation regarding the National Firearms Act of 1934.

²⁵ *United States v. Kazmende*, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 100040

²⁶ *Renna v. Bonta* (2023) 667 F.Supp.3d 1048, [2024.03.25 049 ORDER Staying Case.pdf](#); *Boland v. Bonta*

conduct with the goal of limiting the harmful effects of certain firearm-related products.²⁷ Under FIRA, firearm industry members must establish, implement and enforce “reasonable controls,” which are specified procedures, acts or practices designed to prevent harmful conduct and externalities of firearm proliferation. This bill specifies that “reasonable controls” under FIRA includes preventing the installation and use of a pistol converter. Should this bill pass out of this committee, it will be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee, which will analyze this provision of the bill.

6. Argument in Support

According to the Brady Campaign:

In furtherance of our goal to reduce firearm violence across the state, Brady and Brady California are proud to support AB 1127 which will protect Californians from DIY machine guns by prohibiting the future sale of any pistol that can quickly and easily be converted into a machine gun by attaching a so-called Glock switch — forcing the companies who design their pistols to easily accept these devices to stop selling them to civilians unless and until they fix the problem. DIY machine guns are a growing threat to public safety. Fully automatic machine guns have been illegal under federal and state law for decades, but they can be made at home by attaching a tiny piece of metal or plastic commonly known as a “Glock switch” to a convertible pistol. Shootings committed with these modified, fully automatic handguns can be significantly more deadly, since they allow shooters to spray bullets with a single pull of the trigger, endangering bystanders. In 2022 — right here in Sacramento — a Glock pistol converted into a machine gun was used during a gun battle that killed six and injured twelve. Officers recovered over 110 shell casings at the scene.

These DIY machine guns are flooding our streets because Glock and other companies using the same design have manufactured their pistols in a way that makes them uniquely easy to convert into illegal machine guns by attaching a Glock switch. Because these companies choose profits over public safety, anyone with one of these pistols, a Glock switch – which can be 3D-printed or purchased online for \$25 – and a screwdriver can turn their pistol into an illegal and extremely lethal machine gun in just a few minutes. Glock, specifically, has known about this problem for years, but has not taken responsibility for its easily convertible products and instead has refused to take serious action to fix its design. When the firearm industry refuses to take action to prevent tragedies, California lawmakers must act by prohibiting the sale of dangerous machinegun-convertible pistols. California law already prohibits the devices used to convert pistols into machine guns, but must take further steps to address the pistols themselves that are easily able to accept those devices. As long as California gun dealers are selling pistols that can quickly and easily be turned into machine guns, this public safety threat will continue.

7. Argument in Opposition

According to Gun Owners of California:

²⁷ Civ. Code, § 3273.50, et. seq.

By redefining semi-automatic pistols as “convertible” simply because they could hypothetically be modified, AB 1127 sets a dangerous precedent for future gun bans and further erosion of Second Amendment rights. AB 1127 operates as a veiled ban on Glock handguns and dozens of its clones, one of the most widely used and trusted firearm brands in the world. Glocks are carried by law enforcement, military personnel, and responsible civilians across the country due to their reliability and ease of use. By specifically targeting the potential for modification, this bill disproportionately affects potential Glock purchasers and restricts access to one of the most popular handguns available, further demonstrating that this legislation is not about safety but about incremental firearm prohibition.

California’s restrictive handgun roster already prevents the sale of modern Glock models that are designed to be incompatible with so-called “Glock switches,” yet AB 1127 further punishes legal firearm purchasers by limiting their choices while criminals will continue to operate without regard for the law. Ironically, California is now scrambling to fix a problem of its own making—blocking access to modern, safer handgun models and then blaming legal gun owners for the consequences. Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge that nearly all semi-automatic pistols could theoretically be considered a “convertible pistol” making their definition overly broad and unenforceable.

AB 1127 will not yield the intended results of solving the problem of firearm misuse. Rather, this provides unnecessary government regulations which seem intent on providing obstacles to lawful, responsible citizens who simply yearn to protect their families and homes. The safety of Californians is at the very foundation of our mission, and it has been our consistent goal to work toward common sense solutions regarding the issue of crime and firearm ownership; this can be done, however, without sacrificing our Constitutional rights and the ability of the law abiding to protect their families.

-- END --