

**Introduced by Senator Wolk
(Principal coauthor: Senator Jackson)**

February 27, 2015

An act to amend Section 626.9 of the Penal Code, relating to firearms.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 707, as introduced, Wolk. Firearms: gun-free school zone.

The existing Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995 prohibits a person from possessing a firearm in a place that the person knows, or reasonably should know, is a school zone, unless with the written permission of certain school district officials. Existing law defines a school zone as an area on the grounds of a school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, or within a distance of 1,000 feet of that school. Existing law prohibits a person from possessing a firearm upon the grounds of a campus of a public or private university or college, that are contiguous or are clearly marked as university property, unless with the written permission of specified university or college officials. Under existing law, a violation of these provisions is a felony, or, under specified circumstances, a misdemeanor. Under existing law, certain persons are exempt from both the school zone and the university prohibitions, including, among others, a person holding a valid license to carry a concealed firearm and retired peace officers authorized to carry concealed or loaded firearms.

This bill would instead allow a person holding a valid license to carry a concealed firearm, and a retired peace officer authorized to carry a concealed or loaded firearm, to carry a firearm in an area that is within 1,000 feet of, but not on the grounds of, a public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12. This bill would also delete the exemption that allows a person holding a valid license

to carry a concealed firearm, and a retired peace officer authorized to carry a concealed or loaded firearm, to possess a firearm on the campus of a university or college. By expanding the scope 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:

1 SECTION 1. Section 626.9 of the Penal Code is amended to
2 read:

3 626.9. (a) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as
4 the Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995.

5 (b) Any person who possesses a firearm in a place that the
6 person knows, or reasonably should know, is a school zone, as
7 defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), unless it is with the
8 written permission of the school district superintendent, his or her
9 designee, or equivalent school authority, shall be punished as
10 specified in subdivision (f).

11 (c) Subdivision (b) does not apply to the possession of a firearm
12 under any of the following circumstances:

13 (1) Within a place of residence or place of business or on private
14 property, if the place of residence, place of business, or private
15 property is not part of the school grounds and the possession of
16 the firearm is otherwise lawful.

17 (2) When the firearm is an unloaded pistol, revolver, or other
18 firearm capable of being concealed on the person and is in a locked
19 container or within the locked trunk of a motor vehicle.

20 This section does not prohibit or limit the otherwise lawful
21 transportation of any other firearm, other than a pistol, revolver,
22 or other firearm capable of being concealed on the person, in
23 accordance with state law.

24 (3) When the person possessing the firearm reasonably believes
25 that he or she is in grave danger because of circumstances forming
26 the basis of a current restraining order issued by a court against

1 another person or persons who has or have been found to pose a
2 threat to his or her life or safety. This subdivision may not apply
3 when the circumstances involve a mutual restraining order issued
4 pursuant to Division 10 (commencing with Section 6200) of the
5 Family Code absent a factual finding of a specific threat to the
6 person's life or safety. Upon a trial for violating subdivision (b),
7 the trier of a fact shall determine whether the defendant was acting
8 out of a reasonable belief that he or she was in grave danger.

9 (4) When the person is exempt from the prohibition against
10 carrying a concealed firearm pursuant to Section 25615, 25625,
11 25630, or 25645.

12 (5) *When the person holds a valid license to carry the firearm*
13 *pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 26150) of*
14 *Division 5 of Title 4 of Part 6, who is carrying that firearm in an*
15 *area that is not in, or on the grounds of, a public or private school*
16 *providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive,*
17 *but within a distance of 1,000 feet from the grounds of the public*
18 *or private school.*

19 (6) *When the person is an honorably retired peace officer*
20 *carrying a firearm in an area that is not in, or on the grounds of,*
21 *a public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten*
22 *or grades 1 to 12, inclusive, but within a distance of 1,000 feet*
23 *from the grounds of the public or private school when carrying*
24 *that loaded firearm pursuant to any of the following:*

25 (i) *Article 2 (commencing with Section 25450) of Chapter 2 of*
26 *Division 5 of Title 4 of Part 6.*

27 (ii) *Section 25650.*

28 (iii) *Sections 25900 to 25910, inclusive.*

29 (iv) *Section 26020.*

30 (d) Except as provided in subdivision (b), it shall be unlawful
31 for any person, with reckless disregard for the safety of another,
32 to discharge, or attempt to discharge, a firearm in a school zone,
33 as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e).

34 The prohibition contained in this subdivision does not apply to
35 the discharge of a firearm to the extent that the conditions of
36 paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) are satisfied.

37 (e) As used in this section, the following definitions shall apply:

38 (1) "School zone" means an area in, or on the grounds of, a
39 public or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or

1 grades 1 to 12, inclusive, or within a distance of 1,000 feet from
2 the grounds of the public or private school.

3 (2) “Firearm” has the same meaning as that term is given in
4 subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 16520.

5 (3) “Locked container” has the same meaning as that term is
6 given in Section 16850.

7 (4) “Concealed firearm” has the same meaning as that term is
8 given in Sections 25400 and 25610.

9 (f) (1) Any person who violates subdivision (b) by possessing
10 a firearm in, or on the grounds of, a public or private school
11 providing instruction in kindergarten or grades 1 to 12, inclusive,
12 shall be punished by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of
13 Section 1170 for two, three, or five years.

14 (2) Any person who violates subdivision (b) by possessing a
15 firearm within a distance of 1,000 feet from the grounds of a public
16 or private school providing instruction in kindergarten or grades
17 1 to 12, inclusive, shall be punished as follows:

18 (A) By imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section
19 1170 for two, three, or five years, if any of the following
20 circumstances apply:

21 (i) If the person previously has been convicted of any felony,
22 or of any crime made punishable by any provision listed in Section
23 16580.

24 (ii) If the person is within a class of persons prohibited from
25 possessing or acquiring a firearm pursuant to Chapter 2
26 (commencing with Section 29800) or Chapter 3 (commencing with
27 Section 29900) of Division 9 of Title 4 of Part 6 of this code or
28 Section 8100 or 8103 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

29 (iii) If the firearm is any pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable
30 of being concealed upon the person and the offense is punished as
31 a felony pursuant to Section 25400.

32 (B) By imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year
33 or by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170
34 for two, three, or five years, in all cases other than those specified
35 in subparagraph (A).

36 (3) Any person who violates subdivision (d) shall be punished
37 by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 for
38 three, five, or seven years.

39 (g) (1) Every person convicted under this section for a
40 misdemeanor violation of subdivision (b) who has been convicted

1 previously of a misdemeanor offense enumerated in Section 23515
2 shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail for not less
3 than three months, or if probation is granted or if the execution or
4 imposition of sentence is suspended, it shall be a condition thereof
5 that he or she be imprisoned in a county jail for not less than three
6 months.

7 (2) Every person convicted under this section of a felony
8 violation of subdivision (b) or (d) who has been convicted
9 previously of a misdemeanor offense enumerated in Section 23515,
10 if probation is granted or if the execution of sentence is suspended,
11 it shall be a condition thereof that he or she be imprisoned in a
12 county jail for not less than three months.

13 (3) Every person convicted under this section for a felony
14 violation of subdivision (b) or (d) who has been convicted
15 previously of any felony, or of any crime made punishable by any
16 provision listed in Section 16580, if probation is granted or if the
17 execution or imposition of sentence is suspended, it shall be a
18 condition thereof that he or she be imprisoned in a county jail for
19 not less than three months.

20 (4) The court shall apply the three-month minimum sentence
21 specified in this subdivision, except in unusual cases where the
22 interests of justice would best be served by granting probation or
23 suspending the execution or imposition of sentence without the
24 minimum imprisonment required in this subdivision or by granting
25 probation or suspending the execution or imposition of sentence
26 with conditions other than those set forth in this subdivision, in
27 which case the court shall specify on the record and shall enter on
28 the minutes the circumstances indicating that the interests of justice
29 would best be served by this disposition.

30 (h) Notwithstanding Section 25605, any person who brings or
31 possesses a loaded firearm upon the grounds of a campus of, or
32 buildings owned or operated for student housing, teaching,
33 research, or administration by, a public or private university or
34 college, that are contiguous or are clearly marked university
35 property, unless it is with the written permission of the university
36 or college president, his or her designee, or equivalent university
37 or college authority, shall be punished by imprisonment pursuant
38 to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 for two, three, or four years.
39 Notwithstanding subdivision (k), a university or college shall post
40 a prominent notice at primary entrances on noncontiguous property

1 stating that firearms are prohibited on that property pursuant to
2 this subdivision.

3 (i) Notwithstanding Section 25605, any person who brings or
4 possesses a firearm upon the grounds of a campus of, or buildings
5 owned or operated for student housing, teaching, research, or
6 administration by, a public or private university or college, that
7 are contiguous or are clearly marked university property, unless
8 it is with the written permission of the university or college
9 president, his or her designee, or equivalent university or college
10 authority, shall be punished by imprisonment pursuant to
11 subdivision (h) of Section 1170 for one, two, or three years.
12 Notwithstanding subdivision (k), a university or college shall post
13 a prominent notice at primary entrances on noncontiguous property
14 stating that firearms are prohibited on that property pursuant to
15 this subdivision.

16 (j) For purposes of this section, a firearm shall be deemed to be
17 loaded when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell, consisting
18 of a case that holds a charge of powder and a bullet or shot, in, or
19 attached in any manner to, the firearm, including, but not limited
20 to, in the firing chamber, magazine, or clip thereof attached to the
21 firearm. A muzzle-loader firearm shall be deemed to be loaded
22 when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or
23 shot in the barrel or cylinder.

24 (k) This section does not require that notice be posted regarding
25 the proscribed conduct.

26 (l) This section does not apply to a duly appointed peace officer
27 as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title
28 3 of Part 2, a full-time paid peace officer of another state or the
29 federal government who is carrying out official duties while in
30 California, any person summoned by any of these officers to assist
31 in making arrests or preserving the peace while he or she is actually
32 engaged in assisting the officer, a member of the military forces
33 of this state or of the United States who is engaged in the
34 performance of his or her duties, ~~a person holding a valid license~~
35 ~~to carry the firearm pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with~~
36 ~~Section 26150) of Division 5 of Title 4 of Part 6, or an armored~~
37 vehicle guard, engaged in the performance of his or her duties, as
38 defined in subdivision (e) of Section 7521 *(d) of Section 7582.1*
39 of the Business and Professions Code.

1 (m) This section does not apply to a security guard authorized
2 to carry a loaded firearm pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with
3 Section 26000) of Chapter 3 of Division 5 of Title 4 of Part 6.

4 (n) This section does not apply to an existing shooting range at
5 a public or private school or university or college campus.

6 ~~(o) This section does not apply to an honorably retired peace
7 officer authorized to carry a concealed or loaded firearm pursuant
8 to any of the following:~~

9 ~~(1) Article 2 (commencing with Section 25450) of Chapter 2
10 of Division 5 of Title 4 of Part 6.~~

11 ~~(2) Section 25650.~~

12 ~~(3) Sections 25900 to 25910, inclusive.~~

13 ~~(4) Section 26020.~~

14 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
15 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
16 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
17 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
18 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
19 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
20 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
21 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
22 Constitution.