ASSEMBLY BILL No. 577

Introduced by Assembly Member Villaraigosa

February 17, 1995

An act to amend Sections 12071 and 12072 of the Penal Code, relating to firearms.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 577, as introduced, Villaraigosa. Firearms: trigger locks.

Existing law specifies prohibitions and requirements with regard to the circumstances under which a person licensed to sell firearms may sell or transfer a firearm.

This bill would require a person licensed to sell firearms to offer to sell with each firearm a trigger lock or similar device approved by the Attorney General that is designed to prevent the unintentional discharge of the firearm. A violation of this provision would be a misdemeanor. Because this bill would create a new crime, it would impose 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:

SECTION 1. Section 12071 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

12071. (a) (1) As used in this chapter, the term ‘‘licensee,’’ ‘‘person licensed pursuant to Section 12071,’’ or ‘‘dealer’’ means a person who (A) has a valid federal firearms license, (B) has any regulatory or business license, or licenses, required by local government, (C) has a valid seller’s permit issued by the State Board of Equalization, (D) has a certificate of eligibility issued by the Department of Justice pursuant to paragraph (4), (E) has a license issued in the format prescribed by paragraph (6), and (F) is among those recorded in the centralized list specified in subdivision (e).

(2) The duly constituted licensing authority of a city, county, or a city and county shall accept applications for, and may grant licenses permitting, licensees to sell firearms at retail within the city, county, or city and county. The duly constituted licensing authority shall inform applicants who are denied licenses of the reasons for the denial in writing.

(3) No license shall be granted to any applicant who fails to provide a copy of his or her valid federal firearms license, valid seller’s permit issued by the State Board of Equalization, and the certificate of eligibility described in paragraph (4).

(4) A person may request a certificate of eligibility from the Department of Justice and the Department of Justice shall issue a certificate to an applicant if the department’s records indicate that the applicant is not a person who is prohibited from possessing firearms.

(5) The department shall adopt regulations to administer the certificate of eligibility program and shall recover the full costs of administering the program by imposing fees assessed to applicants who apply for those certificates.

(6) A license granted by the duly constituted licensing authority of any city, county, or city and county, shall be

valid for not more than one year from the date of issuance and shall be in one of the following forms:

(A) In the form prescribed by the Attorney General.

(B) A regulatory or business license that states on its face ‘‘Valid for Retail Sales of Firearms’’ and is endorsed by the signature of the issuing authority.

(C) A letter from the duly constituted licensing authority having primary jurisdiction for the applicant’s intended business location stating that the jurisdiction does not require any form of regulatory or business license or does not otherwise restrict or regulate the sale of firearms.

(7) Local licensing authorities may assess fees to recover their full costs of processing applications for licenses.

(b) A license is subject to forfeiture for a breach of any of the following prohibitions and requirements:

(1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the business shall be conducted only in the buildings designated in the license.

(B) A person licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) may take possession of firearms and commence preparation of registers for the sale, delivery, or transfer of firearms at gun shows or events, as defined in Section 178.100 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or its successor, if the gun show or event is not conducted from any motorized or towed vehicle. A person conducting business pursuant to this subparagraph shall be entitled to conduct business as authorized herein at any gun show or event in the state without regard to the jurisdiction within this state that issued the license pursuant to subdivision (a), provided the person complies with (i) all applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the 15-day waiting period specified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), and (ii) all applicable local laws, regulations, and fees, if any.

A person conducting business pursuant to this subparagraph shall publicly display his or her license issued pursuant to subdivision (a), or a facsimile thereof,

at any gun show or event, as specified in this subparagraph.

(C) A person licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) may engage in the sale and transfer of firearms other than pistols, revolvers, or other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person, at events specified in subdivision (g) of Section 12078, subject to the prohibitions and restrictions contained in that subdivision.

A person licensed pursuant to subdivision (a) also may accept delivery of firearms other than pistols, revolvers, or other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person, outside the building designated in the license, provided the firearm is being donated for the purpose of sale or transfer at an auction or similar event specified in subdivision (g) of Section 12078.

(2) The license or a copy thereof, certified by the issuing authority, shall be displayed on the premises where it can easily be seen.

(3) No firearm shall be delivered:

(A) Prior to January 1, 1996, within 15 days of the application for the purchase, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12076, within 15 days of the submission to the department of corrected copies of the register, or within 15 days of the submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, whichever is later. On or after January 1, 1996, within 15 days of the application for the purchase of a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12076, within 15 days of the submission to the department of corrected copies of the register, or within 15 days of the submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, whichever is later. On or after January 1, 1996, within 10 days of the application for the purchase of any other firearm, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12076, within 10 days of the submission to the department of corrected copies of the

register, or within 10 days of the submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, whichever is later.

(B) Unless unloaded and securely wrapped or unloaded and in a locked container.

(C) Unless the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm presents clear evidence of his or her identity and age to the dealer.

(D) Whenever the dealer is notified by the Department of Justice that the person is in a prohibited class described in Section 12021 or 12021.1 of this code or Section 8100 or 8103 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(4) No pistol, revolver, or other firearm or imitation thereof capable of being concealed upon the person, or placard advertising the sale or other transfer thereof, shall be displayed in any part of the premises where it can readily be seen from the outside.

(5) The licensee shall agree to and shall act properly and promptly in processing firearms transactions pursuant to Section 12082.

(6) The licensee shall comply with Sections 12073, 12076, and 12077, subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 12072, and subdivision (a) of Section 12316.

(7) The licensee shall post conspicuously within the licensed premises the following warning in block letters not less than one inch in height:

"IF YOU LEAVE A LOADED FIREARM WHERE A CHILD OBTAINS AND IMPROPERLY USES IT, YOU MAY BE FINED OR SENT TO PRISON."

(8) Commencing April 1, 1994, no pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person shall be delivered unless the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm presents to the dealer a basic firearm safety certificate.

(9) *(A)* Commencing July 1, ~~1992, the~~ *1996, the licensee shall offer to sell the purchaser or transferee of a firearm, or person being loaned a firearm, a trigger lock or similar device. The trigger lock or similar device shall be approved by the Attorney General and designed to prevent the unintentional discharge of the firearm.*

(B) The licensee shall offer to provide the purchaser or transferee of a firearm, or person being loaned a firearm, with a copy of the pamphlet described in Section 12080 and may add the cost of the pamphlet, if any, to the sales price of the firearm.

(10) The licensee shall not commit an act of collusion as defined in Section 12072.

(11) The licensee shall post conspicuously within the licensed premises a detailed list of each of the following:

(A) All charges required by governmental agencies for processing firearm transfers required by Sections 12076, 12082, and 12806.

(B) All fees that the licensee charges pursuant to Sections 12082 and 12806.

(12) The licensee shall not misstate the amount of fees charged by a governmental agency pursuant to Sections 12076, 12082, and 12806.

(13) The licensee shall report the loss or theft of any firearm that is merchandise of the licensee, any firearm that the licensee takes possession of pursuant to Section 12082, or any firearm kept at the licensee's place of business within 48 hours of discovery to the appropriate law enforcement agency in the city, county, or city and county where the licensee's business premises are located.

(14) In a city and county, or in the unincorporated area of a county with a population of 200,000 persons or more according to the most recent federal decennial census or within a city with a population of 50,000 persons or more according to the most recent federal decennial census, any time the licensee is not open for business, the licensee shall store all firearms kept in his or her licensed place of business using one of the following methods as to each particular firearm:

(A) Store the firearm in a secure facility that is a part of, or that constitutes, the licensee's business premises.

(B) 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.

(C) Store the firearm in a locked fireproof safe or vault in the licensee's business premises.

(15) The licensing authority in an unincorporated area of a county with a population less than 200,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census or within a city with a population of less than 50,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census may impose the requirements specified in paragraph (14).

(16) Commencing January 1, 1994, the licensee shall, upon the issuance or renewal of a license, submit a copy of the same to the Department of Justice.

(17) The licensee shall maintain and make available for inspection during business hours to any peace officer, authorized local law enforcement employee, or Department of Justice employee designated by the Attorney General, upon the presentation of proper identification, a firearms transaction record.

(18) (A) On the date of receipt, the licensee shall report to the Department of Justice in a format prescribed by the department the acquisition by the licensee of the ownership of a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.

(B) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any of the following transactions:

(i) A transaction subject to the provisions of subdivision (n) of Section 12078.

(ii) The dealer acquired the firearm from a wholesaler.

(iii) The dealer is also licensed as a secondhand dealer pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 21625) of Chapter 9 of Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code.

(iv) The dealer acquired the firearm from a person who is licensed as a manufacturer or importer to engage in those activities pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing

with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code and any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

(v) The dealer acquired the firearm from a person who resides outside this state who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code and any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

(c) (1) As used in this article, ‘‘clear evidence of his or her identity and age’’ means either of the following:

(A) A valid California driver’s license.

(B) A valid California identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(2) As used in this article, a ‘‘basic firearm safety certificate’’ means a basic firearm certificate issued to the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm by the Department of Justice pursuant to Article 8 (commencing with Section 12800) of Chapter 6.

(3) As used in this section, a ‘‘secure facility’’ means a building that meets all of the following specifications:

(A) All perimeter doorways shall meet one of the following:

(i) A windowless steel security door equipped with both a dead bolt and a doorknob lock.

(ii) 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 inch diameter or metal grating of at least nine gauge affixed to the exterior or interior of the door.

(iii) A metal grate that is padlocked and affixed to the licensee’s premises independent of the door and doorframe.

(B) All windows are covered with steel bars.

(C) Heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, and service openings are secured with steel bars, metal grating, or an alarm system.

(D) Any metal grates have spaces no larger than six inches wide measured in any direction.

(E) Any metal screens have spaces no larger than three inches wide measured in any direction.

(F) All steel bars shall be no further than six inches apart.

(4) As used in this section, ‘‘licensed premises,’’ ‘‘licensed place of business,’’ ‘‘licensee’s place of business,’’ or ‘‘licensee’s business premises’’ means the building designated in the license.

(5) For purposes of paragraph (17) of subdivision (b):

(A) A ‘‘firearms transaction record’’ is a record containing the same information referred to in Section 178.124a and subdivision (e) of Section 178.125 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(B) A licensee shall be in compliance with the provisions of paragraph (17) of subdivision (b) if he or she maintains and makes available for inspection during business hours to any peace officer, authorized local law enforcement employee, or Department of Justice employee designated by the Attorney General, upon the presentation of proper identification, the bound book containing the same information referred to in Section 178.124a and subdivision (e) of Section 178.125 of Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(d) Upon written request from a licensee, the licensing authority may grant an exemption from compliance with the requirements of paragraph (14) of subdivision (b) if the licensee is unable to comply with those requirements because of local ordinances, covenants, lease conditions, or similar circumstances not under the control of the licensee.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the Department of Justice shall keep a centralized list of all persons licensed pursuant to subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). The department may remove from this list any person who knowingly or with gross negligence violates this article. Upon removal of a dealer from this list, notification shall be provided to local law enforcement and licensing authorities in the jurisdiction where the dealer’s business is located. The department shall make information about an individual dealer available, upon request, for one of the following purposes only:

(1) For law enforcement purposes.

(2) When the information is requested by a person licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code for determining the validity of the license for firearm shipments.

(f) The Department of Justice may inspect dealers to ensure compliance with this article. The department may assess an annual fee, not to exceed eighty-five dollars ($85), to cover the reasonable cost of maintaining the list described in subdivision (e), including the cost of inspections. Dealers whose place of business is in a jurisdiction that has adopted an inspection program to ensure compliance with firearms law shall be exempt from that portion of the department's fee that relates to the cost of inspections. The applicant is responsible for providing evidence to the department that the jurisdiction in which the business is located has the inspection program.

(g) The Department of Justice shall maintain and make available upon request information concerning the number of inspections conducted and the amount of fees collected pursuant to subdivision (f), a listing of exempted jurisdictions, as defined in subdivision (f), the number of dealers removed from the centralized list defined in subdivision (e), and the number of dealers found to have violated this article with knowledge or gross negligence.

(h) Paragraph (14) or (15) of subdivision (b) shall not apply to a licensee organized as a nonprofit public benefit or mutual benefit corporation organized pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 5110) or Part 3 (commencing with Section 7110) of Division 2 of the Corporations Code, if both of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) The nonprofit public benefit or mutual benefit corporation obtained the dealer's license solely and exclusively to assist that corporation or local chapters of that corporation in conducting auctions or similar events at which firearms are auctioned off to fund the activities

of that corporation or the local chapters of the corporation.

(2) The firearms are not pistols, revolvers, or other firearms capable of being concealed upon the person.

SEC. 2. Section 12072 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

12072. (a) (1) No person, corporation, or firm shall knowingly supply, deliver, sell, or give possession or control of a firearm to any person within any of the classes prohibited by Section 12021 or 12021.1.

(2) No person, corporation, or dealer shall sell, supply, deliver, or give possession or control of a firearm to any person whom he or she has cause to believe to be within any of the classes prohibited by Section 12021 or 12021.1 of this code or Section 8100 or 8103 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(3) (A) No person, corporation, or firm shall sell, loan, or transfer a firearm to a minor.

(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to or affect those circumstances set forth in subdivision (p) of Section 12078 that are exempt from the prohibitions set forth in subparagraph (A).

(4) No person, corporation, or dealer shall sell, loan, or transfer a firearm to any person whom he or she knows or has cause to believe is not the actual purchaser or transferee of the firearm, or to any person who is not the person actually being loaned the firearm, if the person, corporation, or dealer has either of the following:

(A) Knowledge that the firearm is to be subsequently loaned, sold, or transferred to avoid the provisions of subdivision (d).

(B) Knowledge that the firearm is to be subsequently loaned, sold, or transferred to avoid the requirements of any exemption to the provisions of subdivision (d).

(5) No person, corporation, or dealer shall acquire a firearm for the purpose of selling, transferring, or loaning the firearm, if the person, corporation, or dealer has either of the following:

(A) In the case of a dealer, intent to violate subdivision (b) or (c).

(B) In any other case, intent to avoid either of the following:

(i) The provisions of subdivision (d).

(ii) The requirements of any exemption to the provisions of subdivision (d).

(b) No person licensed under Section 12071 shall supply, sell, deliver, or give possession or control of a pistol, revolver, or firearm capable of being concealed upon the person to any person under the age of 21 years or any other firearm to a person under the age of 18 years.

(c) No dealer, whether or not acting pursuant to Section 12082, shall deliver a firearm to a person, as follows:

(1) Prior to January 1, 1996, within 15 days of the application for the purchase, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12076, within 15 days of the submission to the department of corrected copies of the register, or within 15 days of the submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, whichever is later. On or after January 1, 1996, within 15 days of the application for the purchase of a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12076, within 15 days of the submission to the department of corrected copies of the register, or within 15 days of the submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, whichever is later. On or after January 1, 1996, within 10 days of the application for the purchase of any other firearm, or, after notice by the department pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 12076, within 10 days of the submission to the department of corrected copies of the register, or within 10 days of the submission to the department of any fee required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 12076, whichever is later.

(2) Unless unloaded and securely wrapped or unloaded and in a locked container.

(3) Unless the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm presents clear evidence of his or her

identity and age, as defined in Section 12071, to the dealer.

(4) Whenever the dealer is notified by the Department of Justice that the person is in a prohibited class described in Section 12021 or 12021.1 of this code or Section 8100 or 8103 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(5) Commencing April 1, 1994, no pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person shall be delivered unless the purchaser, transferee, or person being loaned the firearm presents to the dealer a basic firearm safety certificate.

(6) Commencing July 1, 1996, a dealer shall offer to sell the purchaser or transferee of a firearm, or person being loaned a firearm, a trigger lock or similar device. The trigger lock or similar device shall be approved by the Attorney General and designed to prevent the unintentional discharge of the firearm.

(d) Where neither party to the transaction holds a dealer's license issued pursuant to Section 12071, the parties to the transaction shall complete the sale, loan, or transfer of that firearm through either of the following:

(1) A licensed dealer pursuant to Section 12082.

(2) A law enforcement agency pursuant to Section 12084.

(e) No person may commit an act of collusion relating to Article 8 (commencing with Section 12800) of Chapter 6. For purposes of this section and Section 12071, collusion may be proven by any one of the following factors:

(1) Answering a test applicant's questions during an objective test relating to basic firearms safety.

(2) Knowingly grading the examination falsely.

(3) Providing an advance copy of the test to an applicant.

(4) Taking or allowing another person to take the basic firearms safety course for one who is the applicant for the basic firearms safety certificate.

(5) Allowing another to take the objective test for the applicant, purchaser, or transferee.

(6) Allowing others to give unauthorized assistance during the examination.

(7) Reference to materials during the examination and cheating by the applicant.

(8) Providing originals or photocopies of the objective test, or any version thereof, to any person other than as specified in subdivision (f) of Section 12805.

(f) No person who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code shall deliver, sell, or transfer a firearm to a person who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code and whose licensed premises are located in this state unless one of the following conditions is met:

(1) The person presents proof of licensure pursuant to Section 12071 to that person.

(2) The person presents proof that he or she is exempt from licensure under Section 12071 to that person, in which case the person also shall present proof that the transaction is also exempt from the provisions of subdivision (d).

(g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), a violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

(2) If any of the following circumstances apply, a violation of this section is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for two, three, or four years.

(A) If the violation is of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(B) If the defendant has a prior conviction of violating this section or former Section 12100 of this code or Section 8101 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(C) If the defendant has a prior conviction of violating any offense specified in subdivision (b) of Section 12021.1 or of a violation of Section 12020, 12220, or 12520, or of former Section 12560.

(D) If the defendant is in a prohibited class described in Section 12021 or 12021.1 of this code or Section 8101 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(E) A violation of this section by a person who actively participates in a ‘‘criminal street gang’’ as defined in Section 186.22.

(3) If any of the following circumstances apply, a violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison or in a county jail not to exceed one year, or by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment.

(A) A violation of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a).

(B) A violation of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) involving the sale, loan, or transfer of a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person to a minor.

(C) A violation of paragraph (4) of subdivision (a).

(D) A violation of paragraph (5) of subdivision (a).

(E) A violation of subdivision (b) involving the delivery of a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.

(F) A violation of paragraph (1), (3), (4), or (5) of subdivision (c) involving a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.

(G) A violation of subdivision (d) involving a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.

(H) A violation of subdivision (e).

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

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