



CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR

Jesse Arreguín

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 07

SB 948- Firearms Safety Certificates

SUMMARY

SB 948 builds upon current firearms purchases and possession requirements. Despite California's strong gun safety regulations, the State does not require gun purchasers to undergo training on safe gun-handling, including live fire-training, which can help gun owners prevent injury and death. This bill will close this gap by simply requiring comprehensive, meaningful training for anyone who wishes to obtain a firearms safety certificate (FSC) that is valid for 5 years and required for purchasing a firearm in California. Additionally, new California residents will be required to register their firearms with the California Department of Justice (DOJ) within 60 days and obtain a valid State FSC.

BACKGROUND

Under existing California law, firearm applicants are required to pass a DOJ administered written exam containing 30-questions to obtain a valid FSC. Applicants must pass this exam with a minimum score of 70%, demonstrate safe firearm handling instructor supervision, and pay a $25 fee. Furthermore, new California residents are not currently required to register their firearms with DOJ when moving to the State.

PROBLEM

It is common sense that those who are purchasing a firearm should be properly trained on how to use, handle and store firearms and should participate in live-fire training. However, a study from 2015 found that nearly 40% of all gun owners never received *any* training.[1] Firearm training is crucial not only as an effective means to prevent accidental shootings, but it also equips gun purchasers to protect themselves in the way they envision. Referring to self-defense situations, a study noted that "the quality and frequency of training to maintain acquired skills is predictive of how someone with a firearm will react in a stressful situation and whether they can successfully defend themselves."[2]

SOLUTION

SB 948 would require gun purchasers to have robust meaningful training in firearm safety, transport, and live-fire shooting. Additionally, this bill will require individuals who establish residency in California and bring a firearm from outside the state to register their firearms with DOJ and obtain an FSC. Firearm safety is essential in preventing firearm related incidents, especially those involving children. Responsible gun ownership keeps Californians safe.

CONTACT

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SUPPORT

Brady Campaign (Sponsor)

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[1] https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/24/2/161

[2] https://www.multivu.com/players/English/65360-ngvac-national-gun-victims-tell-and-compel-we-re-done-asking/flexSwf/impAsset/document/c6b7ad45-3bc2-4483-9de1-4dc5dc9d449f.pdf