Assembly Bill 1743

Firearm Trace Data Sharing

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks

SUMMARY

AB 1743 allows any town, city, county, state government agency, California Community College, California State University, or the University of California to request firearm trace data from the California Department of Justice for research and public policy purposes.

ISSUE

Gun violence poses a major public safety and public health threat across the United States. Every gun recovered in connection with a crime started somewhere, and the overwhelming majority originated in the legal marketplace. Understanding where guns that were used in a crime originated is essential to crafting evidence-based and life-saving solutions to the American gun violence epidemic.

Firearm trace data identifies the flow of a firearm from its legal construction or importation to a federally licensed firearms dealer, and then to the firearm's original purchaser. This data is an essential tool for identifying and holding accountable the minority of irresponsible gun dealers and manufacturers who cater to the illegal gun trafficking market. It can help pinpoint the original purchaser, link suspects to crimes, identify traffickers, and uncover patterns in crime gun sources, revealing how guns move from legal commerce into illegal hands.

Although California stands as a leader in addressing gun violence, with rates of gun-related death and injury now well below the national average, there is still more work to be done.

SOLUTION

AB 1743 clarifies that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) can share firearm trace data with any town, city, county, state government agency, California Community College, California State University, or the University of California for research or public policy purposes upon request. Although the DOJ can share its firearm trace data with localities as part of an investigation in real time, current law does not explicitly state that this data can be shared with local governments outside of the course of a specific investigation.

Firearm trace data can be tremendously important to cities and counties. It can aid in solving violent crimes and understanding patterns of where crime guns are coming from, and it can also support localities as they seek solutions to gun violence in their communities.

California has invested in a system that ensures officials have access to this vital data and information. It is important that our trusted partners in local government, academia, and state agencies can utilize it to keep their communities safe and to prevent gun violence throughout the state.

SUPPORT

- Brady and Brady California (sponsors)
- Consumer Protection Policy Center, USD School of Law
- Everytown for Gun Safety
- Giffords
- Moms Demand Action
- Students Demand Action

CONTACT

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