AB 458

Firearm Procurement

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DISTRICT 19

Catherine Stefani

SUMMARY

Every year, the State of California spends millions of taxpayer dollars to procure firearms, ammunition, and firearms accessories for various State law-enforcement agencies. Yet the State's current procurement processes do not require law enforcement agencies to vet firearms vendors or ensure that they only purchase from vendors that comply with local, state and federal laws meant to protect the public. AB 458 would require the state to develop model procurement guidelines to support all State agencies and departments that purchase firearms, ammunition, or firearms accessories and ensure they have the information necessary to assess whether potential vendors are in compliance with applicable laws and use the safest business practices shown to reduce the likelihood of trafficking, gun crime, and violence.

BACKGROUND

Multiple State agencies and departments—such as the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation—purchase firearms, ammunition, and related accessories with California taxpayer funds. Agencies charged with protecting the public should ensure that taxpayer funds used to procure potentially dangerous items are done so in a responsible manner that safeguards the public.

Clearly stated within section 100 of public contracting code is the objective of "protecting the public from misuse of public funds", however, there is no system in place to ensure that firearms, ammunition, and accessories are purchased only from responsible and law abiding vendors.

In the absence of a vetting system, the State has purchased firearms, ammunition, and accessories from irresponsible vendors. In a 2023 report, the gun violence prevention organization Brady found that at least 90 California law enforcement agencies across the state had contracted with gun dealers that had been cited for violating federal gun laws—sometimes repeatedly. This means that taxpayer money has been supporting vendors that engage in dangerous or even illegal business practices.

These dealers' violations include failing to complete required background check forms or follow other procedures to certify that customers were not prohibited from purchasing firearms; losing customer paperwork critical to law enforcement investigations; and failing to submit multiple sales reports.

Vendors that fail to follow proper procedures should not be allowed to profit from California taxpayer funds. Dealers with these violations impede law enforcement investigations and contribute to the gun trafficking and crime that fuel America's gun violence epidemic. Moreover, with their public safety mandate, state law enforcement agencies should not inadvertently endanger their own officers or the public by supporting businesses that directly undermine public safety.

THIS BILL

This bill would require, no later than July 1, 2027, the Department of General Services, in consultation with the Department of Justice, to develop model guidelines for offices, officers, departments, divisions,

*as amended 5.23.25

AB 458

Firearm Procurement

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DISTRICT 19

Catherine Stefani

boards, bureaus, and commissions of the state on the procurement of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories.

The model guidelines will address deficiencies in the current procurement process to assist state entities in selecting vendors and contractors for the procurement of firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories that are in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal firearms laws intended to promote public safety.

SUPPORT

Brady (sponsor)
GIFFORDS Law Center
California Police Chiefs Association
Everytown for Gun Safety
Moms Demand Action
NeverAgainCA
Silicon Valley Alliance for Gun Safety
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Students Demand Action

STAFF CONTACT

Marisol.prieto-valle@asm.ca.gov
916-319-2019

*as amended 5.23.25