


<div>California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Stephen Woolery, Chief</div> 		INFORMATION BULLETIN	
<i>Subject:</i> New Laws Related to Ghost Guns, Firearm Manufacturing, and the Sale and Delivery of Firearm Accessories, Firearm Barrels, and Firearm Manufacturing Machines	<i>No.</i> 2025-DLE-18	<i>Contact for information:</i> Office of Gun Violence Prevention OGVP@doj.ca.gov	
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This informational bulletin summarizes the provisions of two new laws, Assembly Bill 1263 (Gipson) and Senate Bill 704 (Arreguín), that take effect January 1, 2026, and establish new and updated standards, responsibilities, and accountability measures related to:

1. The Sale of Firearm Barrels by Licensed Firearm Dealers and Other Sellers.
2. Civil Code Definitions for “Firearm Accessory” and “Firearm Manufacturing Machine” Under the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act (FIRA).
3. Consumer Notice, Age Verification, and Identification Requirements for the Sale and Delivery of “Firearm Accessories,” “Firearm Manufacturing Machines,” and Firearm Barrels by Licensed Firearm Dealers and Other Firearm Industry Members.
4. Updated Definition and Cause of Action for Unlawful Distribution of Digital Firearm Manufacturing Code to Unlicensed Individuals.
5. New Criminal Offense and Civil Cause of Action for Facilitating, or Causing Another Person to Engage in, the Unlawful Manufacture of Firearms.
6. Prohibiting Firearm and Ammunition Possession/Acquisition for 10 Years by Individuals Convicted of Additional Firearm-Related Offenses.

This bulletin also includes an updated version of the DOJ Office of Gun Violence Prevention’s “[California Ghost Gun Laws Reference Guide](#),” which summarizes California civil and criminal laws and causes of action related to ghost guns and the unlawful manufacture of firearms.

This bulletin is for informational purposes only. Because it is a summary, it does not cover every aspect of the laws described below. The full text of these newly enacted laws can be accessed at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

Summary of AB 1263 and SB 704

1. New Requirements Governing the Sale of Firearm Barrels by Licensed Firearm Dealers and Other Sellers.

Effective January 1, 2026, SB 704 imposes the following new requirements pertaining to the sale of firearm barrels:

- SB 704 generally requires the sale or transfer of a firearm barrel that is not attached or affixed to a firearm to be completed in person by a licensed firearms dealer.¹ (These requirements are subject to certain exemptions).² Pursuant to this law, a person is authorized to purchase or otherwise acquire a firearm barrel if they are at least 18 years of age and not prohibited from possessing, receiving, owning, or purchasing a firearm under state or federal law.³
- If a firearm barrel is sold by a seller other than a licensed firearms dealer, such as an online retailer that sells firearm barrels to California residents, that seller must ship the barrel to a licensed firearms dealer in California to complete the in-person transaction and final delivery pursuant to section 33700 of the Penal Code (codified by SB 704).⁴
- SB 704 also prohibits possession of a firearm barrel with intent to sell or offer to sell the barrel in violation of these requirements.⁵ A first or second violation is punishable as a misdemeanor; a third or subsequent violation is punishable as either a misdemeanor or felony.⁶

Commencing July 1, 2027, SB 704 will also generally require individuals seeking to purchase or acquire firearm barrels to pass a firearms eligibility check, and require licensed firearms dealers to complete and electronically submit a record of sale to the California Department of Justice pertaining to the barrel sale or transfer.

2. Updated Civil Code Definitions for “Firearm Accessory” and “Firearm Manufacturing Machine” Under the FIRA.

Effective January 1, 2026, AB 1263 updates the definitions of the terms “firearm accessory” and “firearm manufacturing machine” under the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act (FIRA). The FIRA applies to “firearm industry members,” which includes licensed firearm dealers, firearm manufacturers, and ammunition vendors, as well as other licensed or unlicensed individuals and entities selling “firearm-related products,” such as

¹ See Pen. Code, § 33700 (enacted by SB 704 (2025), eff. Jan. 1, 2026). The term “firearm barrel” is defined in Penal Code section 16525 to mean “the tube, usually metal and cylindrical, through which a projectile or shot charge is fired. A firearm barrel includes any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as a firearm barrel, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as a firearm barrel once completed, assembled, or converted. A firearm barrel may have a rifled or smooth bore.”

² See id.

³ Pen. Code, § 33700, subd. (b) (enacted by SB 704 (2025), eff. Jan. 1, 2026).

⁴ See Civ. Code, § 3273.51, subd. (e) (enacted by AB 1263 (2025), eff. Jan. 1, 2026) and Pen. Code, § 33700 (enacted by SB 704 (2025), eff. Jan. 1, 2026).

⁵ Pen. Code, § 33700, subd. (a)(3).

⁶ Pen. Code, § 33700, subd. (f).

products that fall within the definition of “firearm accessory” and “firearm manufacturing machine.”⁷

Under existing law, the FIRA requires firearm industry members to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls to prevent the sale or distribution of these firearm-related products to “a straw purchaser, a firearm trafficker, a person prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, or a person who the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe is at substantial risk of using a firearm-related product to harm themselves or another or of possessing or using a firearm-related product unlawfully.”⁸ Violations of these requirements may lead to civil actions and liability.⁹

As described below, AB 1263 (1) expands the scope of products defined as “firearm manufacturing machines,” and (2) amends the scope of products defined as “firearm accessories” to include products commonly used to produce ghost guns and other illegal firearms such as assault weapons and machine guns. As a result of these amendments, some entities that were not previously deemed “firearm industry members” may become “firearm industry members” subject to the requirements of the FIRA.¹⁰

“Firearm Manufacturing Machine”:

- Previously, the FIRA defined “Firearm manufacturing machine” to mean “a three-dimensional printer, as defined in Section 29185 of the Penal Code, or CNC milling machine that, as described in that section, is marketed or sold as, or reasonably designed or intended to be used to manufacture or produce a firearm.”
- Effective January 1, 2026, the expanded definition of “Firearm manufacturing machine” will include a machine that is similar to a three-dimensional printer or CNC milling machine, and will also include machines that are marketed or sold as, or reasonably designed or intended to be used to manufacture firearm components or firearm accessories, in addition to firearms.

Firearm Accessory:

- Previously, the FIRA defined “Firearm accessory” to mean “an attachment or device designed or adapted to be inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm that is designed, intended, or functions to alter or enhance the firing capabilities of a firearm, the lethality of the firearm, or a shooter’s ability to hold and use a firearm.”
- Effective January 1, 2026, the FIRA will instead define “Firearm accessory” to mean any of the following:
 - An attachment or device designed or adapted to be inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm that is designed, intended, or functions to increase a firearm’s rate

⁷ See Civ. Code, § 3273.50, et seq. These terms are defined in section 3273.50 of the Civil Code.

⁸ Civ. Code, §§ 3273.50, subd. (h); 3273.51, subd. (b)(1).

⁹ See Civ. Code, §§ 3273.51; 3273.52.

¹⁰ These definitions are codified and amended in section 3273.50 of the Civil Code.

of fire or to increase the speed at which a person may reload a firearm or replace the magazine.

- Any other attachment or device described in subdivision (a) of Section 30515 of the Penal Code that may render a firearm an assault weapon when inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm.¹¹
- Any other device, tool, kit, part, or parts set that is clearly designed and intended for use in manufacturing firearms.

3. Consumer Notice, Age Verification, and Identification Requirements for the Sale and Delivery of “Firearm Accessories,” “Firearm Manufacturing Machines,” and Firearm Barrels by Licensed Firearm Dealers and Other Firearm Industry Members.

Effective January 1, 2026, AB 1263 updates the FIRA to include new consumer notice, age verification, and identification requirements applicable to the sale and delivery of firearm accessories, firearm manufacturing machines, and firearm barrels unattached to a firearm.¹² These requirements apply to the sale and delivery of these items to the purchaser by “firearm industry members,” **including California licensed firearm dealers, as well as other licensed or unlicensed individuals, companies, or entities** engaged in the manufacture, distribution, importation, marketing, wholesale sale, or retail sale of these items.¹³

To comply with these requirements, commencing January 1, 2026, a firearm industry member must do all of the following **prior** to completing the sale or delivery of a firearm accessory, a firearm manufacturing machine, or a firearm barrel unattached to a firearm, to a purchaser who is in California or a California resident:

- (1) Provide the prospective purchaser with a clear and conspicuous notice that it is generally a crime in California to engage in specified conduct without a valid license to manufacture firearms.¹⁴
- (2) Receive an acknowledgment from the prospective purchaser attesting that the prospective purchaser received and understands the notice.
- (3) Require the prospective purchaser to provide proof of age and identity verifying that the prospective purchaser is at least 18 years of age.

¹¹ This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, any of the following attachments or devices: A thumbhole stock; folding or telescoping stock; grenade launcher or flare launcher; flash suppressor; a threaded barrel capable of accepting a flash suppressor, forward handgrip, or silencer; a shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel that allows the bearer to fire the weapon without burning the bearer’s hand, except a slide that encloses the barrel; or a pistol grip or handgrip that may render a firearm an assault weapon when inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm. See Pen. Code, § 30515, subd. (a); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 5471. This definition also includes magazines that have the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds, though other statutes more generally prohibit the sale, offer to sell, manufacture, importation, transfer, receipt, and possession of such magazines in California. See *id.*; Pen. Code, §§ 16740; 32310, et seq.

¹² See Civ. Code, § 3273.51, subd. (e) (added by AB 1263, eff. Jan. 1, 2026).

¹³ The notice and identification requirements in Civil Code section 3273.51, subd. (e), apply to “firearm industry members.” The term “firearm industry member” is defined in Civil Code section 3273.50.

¹⁴ The information that must be included in the notice is detailed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 3273.51 of the Civil Code (eff. Jan. 1, 2026).

For shipment and delivery of a firearm accessory, firearm manufacturing machine, or a firearm barrel, the firearm industry member must also generally:

- (1) Ensure all packages are conspicuously labeled with the words: “Signature and proof of identification of person aged 18 years or older required for delivery.”
- (2) Ensure the shipping instructions list an address that matches the purchaser’s identification.
- (3) Require the purchaser, upon delivery, to present a courier with proof of identification and the purchaser’s signature in order to receive the item.

These requirements are subject to certain exemptions, including for shipment and delivery of a firearm barrel to a licensed firearms dealer responsible for completing the sale or delivery of that barrel in an in-person transaction, in accordance with SB 704.¹⁵

Violations of these notice, age verification, and identification requirements may lead to civil actions and liability under the FIRA.¹⁶ (Note that other existing Penal and Civil Code provisions also generally apply to the sale, offer to sell, and transfer of certain three-dimensional printers, CNC milling machines, and similar machines, to individuals who are not licensed to manufacture firearms, and to the purchase, possession, and use of such machines to manufacture firearms by unlicensed individuals.)¹⁷

4. Updated Definition and Cause of Action for Unlawful Distribution of Digital Firearm Manufacturing Code to Unlicensed Individuals.

Existing California law defines the term “digital firearm manufacturing code” to include specified digital instructions that may be used to program three-dimensional printers and other machines to manufacture or produce a firearm, including a completed frame or receiver, or a firearm precursor part.¹⁸ Existing law also establishes a cause of action against a person who knowingly distributes digital firearm manufacturing code or knowingly causes that code to be distributed, by any means, to another person in California who is not a federally licensed firearms manufacturer, or otherwise specified in statute.¹⁹

Effective January 1, 2026, AB 1263 will update the definition of “digital firearm manufacturing code” under Civil Code section 3273.60 to mean “any digital instructions in the form of computer-aided design files, computer-aided manufacturing files, or other code or instructions stored and displayed in electronic format as a digital model that may be used to program a CNC milling machine, a three-dimensional printer, or a similar machine, to manufacture or produce any of the following:²⁰

¹⁵ For exemptions, see paragraphs (4) and (5) of subdivision (e) of section 3273.51 of the Civil Code (eff. Jan. 1, 2026).

¹⁶ See Civ. Code, §§ 3273.51 subd. (a), (e); 3273.52.

¹⁷ See Pen. Code, § 29185; Civ. Code, § 3273.61 subd. (a)(2).

¹⁸ See Civ. Code, § 3273.60 (enacted by AB 1089 (2023), eff. Jan. 1, 2024).

¹⁹ See Civ. Code, § 3273.61 (enacted by AB 1089 (2023), eff. Jan. 1, 2024).

²⁰ Civ. Code, § 3273.60 (as amended by AB 1263 (2025), eff. Jan. 1, 2026).

- (1) A firearm, including a completed frame or receiver or a firearm precursor part.
- (2) A large-capacity magazine, as defined in Section 16740 of the Penal Code.
- (3) A large-capacity magazine conversion kit, as defined in Section 32311 of the Penal Code.
- (4) A machinegun, as defined in Section 16880 of the Penal Code, including devices commonly known as switches or auto-sear devices.
- (5) A multiburst trigger activator, as defined in Section 16930 of the Penal Code.
- (6) A silencer, as defined in Section 17210 of the Penal Code.
- (7) A firearm accessory, as defined in Section 3273.50 [of the Civil Code].
- (8) A firearm barrel.”

Effective January 1, 2026, AB 1263 will also update Civil Code section 3273.61 to provide a private right of action for harm caused by the unlawful distribution of digital firearm manufacturing code. This expands this statute’s existing language authorizing the Attorney General, county counsel, or city attorney to bring civil actions for violations. AB 1263 also establishes a rebuttable presumption that a person has violated this section if both of the following are true:

- (1) The person owns or participates in the management of an internet website or other electronic portal, database, or platform that makes digital firearm manufacturing code available for purchase, download, or other distribution to individuals in California who are not federally licensed firearms manufacturers and who are not otherwise described in paragraph (1) of Section 3273.61(a) of the Civil Code.
- (2) Under the totality of the circumstances, the internet website or other electronic portal, database, or platform encourages individuals who access or use the internet website or electronic portal, database, or platform to upload or disseminate digital firearm manufacturing code or to use digital firearm manufacturing code to manufacture firearms, firearm accessories, or other devices described in Section 3273.60(a) of the Civil Code (defining “digital firearm manufacturing code”).

5. New Criminal Offense and Civil Cause of Action for Facilitating or Causing Another Person to Engage in the Unlawful Manufacture of Firearms.

Effective January 1, 2026, AB 1263 creates a new Penal Code section 29186, making it a misdemeanor to “knowingly or willfully cause another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, or to knowingly or willfully aid, abet, promote, or facilitate the unlawful manufacture of firearms.”

For these purposes, the “unlawful manufacture of firearms” includes:

- (1) The manufacture of a firearm by a minor, or by a person who is prohibited from owning or possessing firearms under California law.
- (2) The manufacture of four or more firearms within the state in the same calendar year by an individual who is not licensed to manufacture firearms pursuant to California law, in violation of Section 29010.

- (3) The manufacture of any firearm using a three-dimensional printer or computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine by an individual who is not licensed to manufacture firearms pursuant to California law, in violation of Section 29185.
- (4) The manufacture of a firearm by a person who is not a federally licensed firearms manufacturer, for the purpose of selling or transferring ownership of that firearm to another person who is not a federally licensed firearms manufacturer, in violation of subdivision (d) of Section 29180.
- (5) The manufacture of a firearm for the purpose of selling, loaning, or transferring the firearm to another person, with the intent to complete the sale, loan, or transfer without a required background check on the transferee initiated by a licensed firearms dealer, in violation of Section 27520.
- (6) The manufacture of any of the following:
 - (A) Assault weapons or .50 BMG rifles, in violation of Section 30600.
 - (B) Firearms that are not immediately recognizable as firearms, in violation of Section 24510.
 - (C) Firearms that are not imprinted with a valid state or federal serial number or mark of identification, in violation of subdivision (f) of Section 29180.
 - (D) Large-capacity magazines or large-capacity magazine conversion kits, in violation of Section 32310 or 32311.
 - (E) Machineguns, in violation of Section 32625.
 - (F) Multiburst trigger activators, in violation of Section 32900.
 - (G) Short-barreled rifles or short-barreled shotguns, in violation of Section 33215.
 - (H) Undetectable firearms, in violation of Section 24610.
 - (I) Unsafe handguns, in violation of Section 32000.
 - (J) Zip guns, in violation of Section 33600.
 - (K) Any other weapon defined as a “generally prohibited weapon” under Section 16590.

Defendants convicted of violating this new section on or after January 1, 2026, will generally be prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition for 10 years after conviction.²¹

²¹ Pursuant to AB 1263, SEC. 7 (2025) (eff. January 1, 2026) (adding subdivision (h) to section 29805 of the Penal Code).

Effective January 1, 2026, AB 1263 also creates a **new Civil Code section 3273.625** that parallels Penal Code section 29186. This Civil Code section makes it unlawful to “knowingly, willfully, or recklessly cause another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms,” or “to knowingly, willfully, or recklessly aid, abet, promote, or facilitate the unlawful manufacture of firearms.” This new Civil Code statute provides a private right of action for persons who have suffered harm in California as a result of a violation of this section to seek compensatory damages and injunctive relief, and authorizes the Attorney General, county counsels, and city attorneys to seek civil penalties and injunctive relief. For these purposes, the “unlawful manufacture of firearms” has the same definition provided in Penal Code section 29186 (as described above).

6. Prohibiting Firearm and Ammunition Possession/Acquisition for 10 Years by Individuals Convicted of Additional Firearm-Related Offenses.

Under existing law, Penal Code section 29805 provides a list of misdemeanor offenses that generally result in a 10-year prohibition on firearm possession and acquisition under California law. Under California law, individuals prohibited from possessing firearms are also prohibited from possessing ammunition.²²

AB 1263 adds nine additional offenses to this list of firearm-prohibiting misdemeanor convictions, prohibiting individuals from possessing or acquiring firearms and ammunition for 10 years if they are convicted of a misdemeanor under any of the following sections of the Penal Code on or after January 1, 2026:

- Section 24610 (Offenses related to “undetectable firearms” that are not detectable by metal detectors or other common security screening machines).
- Section 27530 (Unlawful sale or transfer of unserialized firearms).
- Section 29185 (Offenses related to unlawful use of three-dimensional printer or CNC milling machine to manufacture a firearm without valid license; or unlawful sale, offer to sell, or transfer, to unlicensed individuals of machines that have the sole or primary function of manufacturing firearms; or unlawful possession, purchase, or receipt of such a machine by unlicensed individuals).
- Section 29186 (Violations of new Penal Code statute established by AB 1263 for causing another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, or aiding, abetting, promoting, or facilitating the unlawful manufacture of firearms).
- Section 30605 (Unlawful possession of assault weapons).
- Section 30610 (Unlawful possession of .50 BMG rifles).
- Section 32900 (Offenses related to “multiburst trigger activators”).
- Section 33215 (Offenses related to short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns).
- Section 33600 (Offenses related to “zip guns”).

²² See Pen. Code, § 30305, subd. (a).