



SB 704 – Firearm Barrel Background Checks

Current Law

- California law already requires nearly all firearm sales and transfers to go through a **licensed firearms dealer** with a background check.
- Existing law defines a firearm as any device designed to expel a projectile through a **barrel**, but until now, **barrels themselves were unregulated parts**.
- Dealers already conduct eligibility checks for firearms and ammunition purchases through the California Department of Justice (DOJ).

How Does SB 704 Change Current Law?

- Beginning **July 1, 2027**, all **firearm barrels** must be sold or transferred **in person through a licensed dealer**, similar to firearm sales.
- Dealers must run a **DOJ eligibility check** on every purchaser and record the buyer's name, ID number, address, and the make/model/caliber of the firearm the barrel fits.
- Creates a new **\$5 processing fee** (adjustable by \$1 per year) for each barrel background check.
- Makes it a **crime** to sell, offer for sale, or even possess barrels for sale without going through a dealer.
- Penalties:
 - 1st offense – misdemeanor
 - 2nd offense – misdemeanor with up to 1 year in jail + \$1,000 fine
 - 3rd + offenses – felony or misdemeanor (up to 1 year jail and/or \$2,000 fine)
- Provides exemptions for **law enforcement, FFLs, the military, and collectors** acquiring C&R barrels with a current COE.

How Does SB 704 Affect Me?

- Starting in 2027, **you can't order or sell a loose barrel online or by mail** — it must go through a licensed dealer with a background check.
- A \$5 state fee (plus dealer markup) will be applied to every barrel purchase.
- Owning a barrel is still legal, but **buying, selling, or trading one privately without a dealer is a crime**.
- Barrels permanently attached to firearms are exempt.

In Short:

- Background checks now extend to barrels.
- No more online or private barrel sales.
- New \$5 fee per barrel check (starting 2027).
- Another step toward California treating gun parts like firearms.



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*A Political Committee Dedicated to **Crime** Control – Not Gun Control*