
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

SB 1253 (Gonzalez) - Firearms: firearm safety certificates

Version: April 3, 2024

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 16, 2024

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 4 - 1

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Mark McKenzie

Bill Summary: SB 1253 would prohibit a person from possessing a firearm without a valid, unexpired firearm safety certificate (FSC), except as provided, commencing on January 1, 2026. The bill would also require a person who brings a firearm into this state to obtain a firearm safety certificate within 120 days, as specified.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 16, 2024

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown costs, potentially in excess of \$100,000, for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to process applications for FSCs for personal firearms importers. These costs would be offset by application fee revenues. (Firearm Safety and Enforcement Special Fund)
- Unknown fee revenue gains, potentially in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, related to the issuance of new FSCs for personal firearms importers. Staff notes that \$15 of the \$25 FSC application fee is deposited into the Firearm Safety and Enforcement Special Fund.
- Unknown, potentially significant court workload cost pressures to the extent enforcement actions are taken against personal firearms importers for failure to obtain an FSC within 120 days. The number of cases that would be brought as a result of this bill is unknown. It generally costs about \$8,000 to operate a courtroom for one eight-hour day. If cases brought as a result of this bill take an additional 50 hours of court time in the aggregate in a given year, the cost pressures to the courts would surpass the Suspense File threshold. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased staff time and resources may create a need for increased funding for courts from the General Fund to perform existing duties. (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund)

Committee Amendments: Delete changes to existing law in Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 of the April 3, 2024 version of the bill, thereby limiting the measure to the requirement that a personal firearm importer obtain an FSC within 120 days of bringing any firearm, except an antique firearm, into this state. The amendments would make a violation of this requirement a misdemeanor.

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