



IN BRIEF

SB 220 will strengthen security requirements at firearms retailers to help prevent firearm theft.

THE PROBLEM

Guns are stolen from gun stores due to a lack of adequate security. In some cases, guns are left in their display cases without suitable locking mechanisms, making them easy targets for burglars.

In a series of robberies during 2016, hundreds of guns were stolen from guns stores in the cities of [San Carlos](#), [Folsom](#), [Sunnyvale](#), [Ceres](#), [Petaluma](#), [Ventura](#), [Elk Grove](#), [Rocklin](#), [Grass Valley](#), and [El Cerrito](#). In most of the burglaries, thieves used a vehicle as a battering ram to break into the gun store. Several of the stores left the guns in their glass display cases, making them easily accessible to the robbers. Similar smash and grab firearm thefts have occurred more recently in [Loomis](#), [Fairfield](#), [Stockton](#), and [Dixon](#).

Data from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) show that between 2012 and 2017 over 1,600 guns were reported as stolen from federally licensed gun dealers in the state.

Across the nation, ATF data shows that gun store robberies are becoming an increasing occurrence. Burglaries of gun stores have increased by over 70 percent since 2013. The number of firearms stolen during burglaries has also increased by over 130%, from 3,355 in 2013 to 7,841 in 2017.

Stolen guns often make their way into the hands of criminals. As an example, according to an NBC Bay Area [report](#), which analyzed 70,000 lost or stolen guns between 2010 and 2015, 2,655 of the guns were connected to a crime.

Further, stolen guns are unlikely to be found or recovered. According to a federal Department of Justice [analysis](#) of firearms stolen during household burglaries, no more than 20% are recovered within 6 months of being stolen.

Law enforcement agencies are hard at work to catch gun thieves. In 2016, the US Attorney for the Central District of California [announced](#) that a man plead guilty to stealing over 100 guns from gun stores. On February 13, 2017, [it was revealed](#) that federal authorities in the Bay Area had apprehended a group of

Eight men who were purportedly stealing guns from Northern California stores and selling them. But while law enforcement agencies are diligently working to recover stolen guns, the Legislature can and should act to prevent the thefts in the first place.

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, California gun store owners only need to implement one of three potential security options. Owners can store their guns in a secure facility – bars on the windows and deadbolts on the doors – or put their guns in a safe, or use a steel rod or cable to secure them while the guns are in their rack or display case. These security measures, independent of each other, have proven to be insufficient to prevent against theft, especially when a vehicle is used as a battering ram.

THE SOLUTION

SB 220 implements best practices for storing guns when a gun store is closed for business. Specifically, the bill tightens the existing security measures by requiring that all guns be kept in a secure facility with steel bars on the windows, deadbolts or a metal grate on doors, and steel bars, metal grating, or an alarm system to protect A/C vents.

Most importantly, SB 220 will require gun store owners to choose from one (1) of eight (8) additional security measures:

Option 1: Take the guns out of their display cases and lock them in a safe or vault.

Option 2: Lock the guns in their display cases with a steel rod or cable through the triggers guards and place steel or concrete bollards in front of the store and at other critical access points.

Option 3: Lock the guns in a polycarbonate display case.

Option 4: Lock the guns in a display case that utilizes security film.

Option 5: Lock the guns in a windowless room, which has no doors exposed to the outside of the building, and which has a steel security door.

Option 6: Lock the guns behind a steel roll down door or security gate.

Option 7: Lock the guns in a gun rack with a locking steel bar.

Option 8: Install steel roll down doors on all perimeter doorways and floor-to-ceiling windows.

Many gun stores may already meet these security measures. Some gun stores already reportedly store their weapons in a safe when they are closed, something the ATF deems as a best business practice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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