



# Fact Sheet

## Assembly Bill 48 – Skinner

### EXISTING LAW

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Current law prohibits a person, corporation, or firm from giving possession or control of ammunition to any person who he or she knows is prohibited by law from possessing ammunition.

Existing law also prohibits the possession of large-capacity magazines. Current law defines “large-capacity magazine” to mean any ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.

### PROBLEM

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Communities throughout the state and across the nation have been stunned with the horrific and tragic events that have recently occurred due to gun violence. The spate of recent shootings highlights the need for oversight of ammunition sales as it relates to the threat of gun violence. In Aurora, Colorado, the alleged gunman amassed 6,000 rounds of ammunition over a few-week period without raising red flags. In Newtown, Connecticut, police found the shooter with multiple high-capacity magazines and hundreds of unspent rounds.

While incidents like Aurora and Newtown may be rare, gun violence is an ongoing, yet unnecessary threat in communities throughout California.

Currently, state law does not require oversight, tracking or reporting of ammunition transactions. We have an obligation to minimize gun violence and make our communities safer.

It is also illegal to possess large-capacity magazine that can accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition in California. Unfortunately, some individuals are obtaining parts that allow them to assemble a high-capacity magazine; AB 48 will close this loophole.

### THIS BILL

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AB 48 will require anyone selling or transferring ammunition to an individual in California to require proper identification, to be an authorized firearms dealer, and to report the sales to the Department of Justice.

Additionally, AB 48 will prohibit large-capacity conversion kits, or “clip kits,” which allow more than 10 rounds to be fired without reloading.

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Assemblymember Nancy Skinner

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# Nancy Skinner

Assemblymember, Representing the 15<sup>th</sup> District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 20, 2012

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## **Law to Tighten Ammunition Purchases Reintroduced in Sacramento**

*Legislation aims to stop stockpiling of mass ammunition and provide better police oversight*

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – Today, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) will reintroduce legislation to provide oversight of California's ammunition marketplace.

*“In California, it’s harder to get some cold medicines than ammunition,”* stated Skinner, referring to the state’s over-the-counter pseudoephedrine laws. *“Something has to change.”*

Last year, Skinner authored Assembly Bill 2512, which would have required large ammunition purchases to be reported to local law enforcement. Her bill also sought to close a loophole in the assault weapons law allowing individuals to have high-capacity magazines, like those found on the alleged shooter in Newtown, Connecticut.

Skinner’s new bill will make buying ammunition at least as difficult as buying pseudoephedrine, a decongestant that is also a precursor to methamphetamines. This bill will:

- require all ammunition purchasers to show their IDs,
- require all ammunition sales to be reported to the Department of Justice,
- require all ammunition sellers to be licensed and undergo a background check, and
- ban kits to convert ammunition clips into high-capacity magazines.

The spate of recent shootings highlights the need for oversight of ammunition sales as it relates to the threat of gun violence. In Aurora, Colorado, the alleged gunman amassed 6,000 rounds of ammunition over a few-week period without raising red flags. In Newtown, Connecticut, police found the shooter with multiple high-capacity magazines.

*"Among the most shocking details from the shooting massacre in Colorado is the undetected stockpiling of ammunition and weapons by the alleged shooter. In Newtown, the shooter had hundreds of unspent rounds. While incidents like Aurora and Newtown may be rare, we can't let ammunition stockpiling go unnoticed,"* said Skinner

Current state law does not track ammunition transactions.

*"Gun violence is an ongoing, yet unnecessary threat in communities throughout California. As lawmakers, we need to do everything we can to stop this trend,"* said Skinner.

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Elected in 2008, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) represents the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the cities and communities of Hercules, Pinole, El Sobrante, San Pablo, Richmond, El Cerrito, Kensington, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont and parts of Oakland. Skinner serves as Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee.

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By: OA



*California*  
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

**AB-48 Firearms: ammunition: sales.** (2013-2014)

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 04, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2013-2014 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

*Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.*  
*Edgar Rakestraw, Jr.*  
Edgar Rakestraw, Jr., Secretary  
Board of Education 1/10/13

**No. 48**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner**  
**(Coauthor(s): Assembly Member Ammiano, *Bonta*, *Williams*)**  
**(Coauthor(s): Senator De León, *Hancock*)**

**December 20, 2012**

**An act to amend Sections 16740, 16890, and 32390 of, and to add Sections 16740.5, 30301, and 32311 to, the Penal Code, relating to firearms.**

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 48, as amended, Skinner. Firearms: ammunition: sales.

(1) Except as specified, existing law makes it a crime to manufacture, import, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, or give or lend any large-capacity magazine, and makes a large-capacity magazine a nuisance. Existing law defines "large-capacity magazine" to mean any ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds but excludes, in pertinent part, a feeding device that has been permanently altered so that the magazine cannot accommodate more than 10 rounds.

This bill would make it a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed 6 months, or by both that fine and imprisonment, to knowingly manufacture, import, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, or give or lend any device that is capable of converting an ammunition feeding device into a large-capacity magazine. The bill would revise the definition of "large-capacity magazine" to mean any ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds, including a readily restorable, as defined, disassembled large-capacity magazine, and an oversize magazine body that appears to hold in excess of 10 rounds. The bill would make related, conforming changes. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) Existing law prohibits any person, corporation, or dealer from selling ammunition to a person under 18 years of age, selling ammunition designed for use in a handgun to a person under 21 years of age, or providing possession of any ammunition to any minor who the person, corporation, or dealer knows is prohibited from possessing that ammunition at that time. Existing law prohibits a person, corporation, or firm from giving possession or control of ammunition to any person who he or she knows is prohibited by law from possessing ammunition. Existing law also regulates handgun ammunition vendors and provides that a handgun ammunition vendor shall not permit any employee who the vendor knows or reasonably should know is a person who has

been convicted of a felony or other specified crimes to handle, sell, or deliver handgun ammunition in the course and scope of employment.

This bill would require anyone in the state, prior to selling, transferring, or otherwise furnishing ammunition to an individual or business entity in this state or any other state to require proper identification, as prescribed, to be an authorized firearms dealer, and to report the sales to the Department of Justice. An individual who fails to make the required report or who knowingly makes a report with false or fictitious information would be guilty of a misdemeanor, as specified. *This bill would exempt an individual in the state who sells, transfers, or furnishes ammunition to certain specified law enforcement individuals from those identification and reporting requirements.* By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would require the department to alert local law enforcement entities in the community in which the purchaser resides if an individual purchaser who is not a peace officer obtains more than \_\_\_\_ rounds within a 5 -day period.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1.** Section 16740 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

**16740.** (a) As used in this part, "large-capacity magazine" means any ammunition feeding device with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds, including, but not limited to, a readily restorable disassembled large-capacity magazine and an oversize magazine body that appears to hold in excess of 10 rounds. A magazine body is not a large-capacity magazine if it is only of sufficient size to accommodate no more than 10 rounds of ammunition and the internal working parts of the magazine, including the follower and spring.

(b) As used in this section, "readily restorable" means magazine parts under the custody and control of an individual or individuals that can be assembled into a complete magazine.

**SEC. 2.** Section 16740.5 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

**16740.5.** As used in this part, a "large-capacity magazine" shall not be construed to include any of the following:

- (a) A .22 caliber tube ammunition feeding device.
- (b) A tubular magazine that is contained in a lever-action firearm.

**SEC. 3.** Section 16890 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

**16890.** As used in Section 16150, 16740, 30305, or 30515, "magazine" means any ammunition feeding device, including readily restorable disassembled magazines. For purposes of this section, "readily restorable" means magazine parts under the custody and control of an individual or individuals that can be assembled into a complete magazine.

**SEC. 4.** Section 30301 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

**30301.** (a) Anyone in this state, prior to selling, transferring, or otherwise furnishing ammunition to an individual or business entity in this state or any other state, shall do all of the following:

- (1) Require proper identification from the purchaser in the form of a driver's license or other photographic identification issued by a state or the federal government.
- (2) Be an authorized firearms dealer, pursuant to Section 26500.
- (3) Submit a report to the Department of Justice for all of the transactions, in a manner to be determined by the department.

(b) The Department of Justice shall alert local law enforcement entities in the community in which the purchaser resides if the purchaser obtains more than \_\_\_\_ rounds within a five-day period and the purchaser is an individual and not an authorized firearms dealer. The department is not required to alert local law enforcement of sales of ammunition made to peace officers.

(c) (1) Any individual who does not submit the report required by paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), or who knowingly submits a report with false or fictitious information, shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any individual who has previously been convicted of a violation of paragraph (1) shall, upon a subsequent conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, or by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, by a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or by both the fine and imprisonment.

*(d) Subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) do not apply to or affect the sale, delivery, or transfer of ammunition to any of the following:*

*(1) An authorized law enforcement representative of a city, county, city and county, or state or federal government, if the sale, delivery, or transfer is for the exclusive use by that government agency and, prior to the sale, delivery, or transfer of the ammunition, written authorization from the head of the agency employing the purchaser or transferee is obtained identifying the employee as an individual authorized to conduct the transaction, and authorizing the transaction for the exclusive use of the agency employing the individual.*

*(2) A sworn peace officer, as defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 who is authorized to carry a firearm in the course and scope of his or her duties.*

**SEC. 5.** Section 32311 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

**32311.** Except as provided in Article 2 (commencing with Section 32400) of this chapter and in Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 17700) of Division 2 of Title 2, commencing January 1, 2014, any person in this state who knowingly manufactures or causes to be manufactured, imports into the state, keeps for sale, or offers or exposes for sale, or who gives or lends any device that is capable of converting an ammunition feeding device into a large-capacity magazine is punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.

**SEC. 6.** Section 32390 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

**32390.** (a) Except as provided in Article 2 (commencing with Section 32400) of this chapter and in Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 17700) of Division 2 of Title 2, and in subdivision (b), any large-capacity magazine is a nuisance and is subject to Section 18010.

(b) Subdivision (a) does not apply to the possession of a readily restorable disassembled large-capacity magazine or an oversize magazine body that has been permanently altered so that the magazine cannot accommodate more than 10 rounds by a person who lawfully possessed the magazine prior to January 1, 2014.

**SEC. 7.** No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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