



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

D I V I S I O N O F L A W E N F O R C E M E N T

# AB 2552 GUN SHOW REPORT 2023



## INTRODUCTION

This report is the first annual California Department of Justice (DOJ) Gun Show Report, in accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 2552 (Stats. 2022, ch. 696). As of July 1, 2023, AB 2552 requires DOJ to inspect at least half of all gun shows in California each year. The remaining provisions of AB 2552 took effect on January 1, 2023.

The report summarizes information about DOJ's inspections conducted at gun shows in California in 2023 after applicable provisions of the law took effect on July 1, 2023.

## AB 2552 and Its Requirements

AB 2552 imposes new requirements for gun show producers and vendors.<sup>1</sup> These requirements are designed in part to address the proliferation of unserialized firearms parts sold as the key building block for “ghost gun” kits and components.

### Requirements for Gun Show Vendors and Producers

Effective January 1, 2023, AB 2552:

- Required vendors who wished to participate at gun shows to certify in writing to a DOJ-licensed gun show producer that they would not display, possess, or offer for sale any unserialized firearm frame or receiver, including any unfinished frame or receiver, or any attachment or conversion kit designed to convert a handgun into a short-barreled rifle or assault weapon.<sup>2</sup>
- Re-emphasized that the sale of firearm precursor parts at a gun show or event must be conducted in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws.<sup>3</sup>
- Required gun show producers to post additional notices at each public entrance to a gun show informing attendees about specified laws and responsibilities, including California's laws requiring firearms to be safely stored to prevent children from gaining unsupervised access.<sup>4</sup>
- Increased penalties for gun show producers who willfully violate California laws governing gun shows.<sup>5</sup>

### DOJ's Responsibilities

AB 2552 also expanded DOJ's inspection and enforcement authority and obligations with respect to California gun shows. While AB 2552 and most of its provisions governing gun shows

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<sup>1</sup> See Assembly Bill 2552 (Stats. 2022, ch. 696), amending California Penal Code Sections 27240, 27245, 27305, 27310, and 27350.

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Pen. Code, § 27305 (as amended by AB 2552).

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310, subd. (a) (as amended by AB 2552).

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Pen. Code, § 27240, subd. (a) (as amended by AB 2552).

<sup>5</sup> Cal. Pen. Code, § 27245 (as amended by AB 2552).

took effect on January 1, 2023, its provision requiring DOJ to annually conduct inspection and enforcement of half of all gun shows in California took effect on July 1, 2023.

Pursuant to AB 2552, California law now requires DOJ to:

- Conduct enforcement and inspection of at least one half of all gun shows or events held in California each year, commencing July 1, 2023.<sup>6</sup>
- Post information on DOJ's website regarding any violations of applicable state or federal law discovered during such an inspection.<sup>7</sup>
- Submit a report to the Legislature by May 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, summarizing DOJ's gun show enforcement and inspection activities pursuant to AB 2552.<sup>8</sup>

## ***Number and Locations of Inspections Carried Out***

Since AB 2552 was passed and signed, DOJ's Bureau of Firearms (BOF) established its inspection program to meet AB 2552 requirements. DOJ continues to build and expand its program by hiring and training additional field representatives to conduct inspections at gun shows across the state. BOF also developed new policies and procedures, and is currently formulating comprehensive regulations related to the inspection of gun shows as authorized by Penal Code section 27310, subdivision (b). As DOJ's program was not yet fully established in 2023, inspections were delayed until later in the year. With the program now underway, inspections began regularly in the 2024 calendar year and DOJ expects to meet AB 2552 mandates in subsequent reporting years.

During the reporting period for this report (July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023), BOF Field Representatives trained in the new policies and procedures and inspected the Vallejo Gun Show that took place in Solano County on December 10, 2023. Of the entities (i.e., producer and vendors) that were inspected, no violations were recorded.

## ***Additional Enforcement Operations at Gun Shows***

In addition to work required by AB 2552, BOF Special Agents conducted ongoing enforcement operations at gun shows, including operations to identify illegal transactions, seize firearms from prohibited individuals, and identify individuals trafficking firearms into California from other states. BOF Special Agents have been monitoring and investigating buyers and sellers at gun shows throughout California since 2001. These enforcement activities were also conducted by BOF throughout 2023. As a result of these separate enforcement activities, Special Agents seized 29 illegally possessed weapons (including five assault weapons, 16 ghost guns, six handguns, one rifle, and one shotgun), as well as 5,473 large-capacity magazines, 24 standard magazines, and 1,071 rounds of ammunition.

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<sup>6</sup> Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310, subd. (c).

<sup>7</sup> Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310, subd. (d).

<sup>8</sup> Cal. Pen. Code, § 27310, subd. (e).