

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 669

Introduced by Assembly Member Hertzberg

February 22, 2001

An act to amend Section 12072.5 of the Penal Code, relating to firearms.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 669, as introduced, Hertzberg. Firearms: ballistics identification systems study.

Existing law requires the Attorney General to conduct a study to evaluate ballistics identification systems, as defined, to determine the feasibility and potential benefits to law enforcement of utilizing a statewide ballistics identification system capable of maintaining a data base of ballistic images and information from test fired and sold firearms, as specified. Under existing law, the Attorney General is required to submit a report to the Legislature with the results of the study no later than June 1, 2001.

This bill would extend the date by which the Attorney General's report is due to the Legislature to June 1, 2002.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 12072.5 of the Penal Code is amended
2 to read:
3 12072.5. (a) For purposes of this section, "ballistics
4 identification systems" includes, but is not limited to, any

1 automated image analysis system that is capable of storing firearm
2 ballistic markings and tracing those markings to the firearm that
3 produced them.

4 (b) The Attorney General shall conduct a study to evaluate
5 ballistics identification systems to determine the feasibility and
6 potential benefits to law enforcement of utilizing a statewide
7 ballistics identification system capable of maintaining a data base
8 of ballistic images and information from test fired and sold
9 firearms. The study shall include an evaluation of ballistics
10 identification systems currently used by state and federal law
11 enforcement agencies and the firearms industry. The Attorney
12 General shall consult with law enforcement agencies, firearms
13 industry representatives, private technology providers, and other
14 appropriate parties in conducting the study.

15 (c) In evaluating ballistics identification systems to determine
16 the feasibility of utilizing a statewide system as required pursuant
17 to subdivision (b), the Attorney General shall consider, at a
18 minimum, the following:

19 (1) The development of methods by which firearm
20 manufacturers, importers, and dealers may potentially capture
21 ballistic images from firearms prior to sale in California and
22 forward that information to the Attorney General.

23 (2) The development of methods by which the Attorney
24 General will receive, store, and make available to law enforcement
25 ballistic images submitted by firearm manufacturers, importers,
26 and dealers prior to sale in California.

27 (3) The potential financial costs to the Attorney General of
28 implementing and operating a statewide ballistics identification
29 system, including the process for receipt of information from
30 firearm manufacturers, importers, and dealers.

31 (4) The capability of a ballistics identification system
32 maintaining a data base of ballistic images and information from
33 test fired firearms for all firearms sold in California.

34 (5) The compatibility of a ballistics identification system with
35 ballistics identification systems that are currently used by law
36 enforcement agencies in California.

37 (6) A method to ensure that state and local law enforcement
38 agencies can forward ballistic identification information to the
39 Attorney General for inclusion in a statewide ballistics
40 identification system.



1 (7) The feasibility and potential benefits to law enforcement of
2 requiring firearm manufacturers, importers, and dealers to provide
3 the Attorney General with ballistic images from any, or a selected
4 number of, test fired firearms prior to the sale of those firearms in
5 California.

6 (d) The Attorney General shall submit a report to the
7 Legislature with the results of the study not later than June 1, ~~2001~~
8 2002. In the event the report includes a determination that a
9 ballistics identification system and data base is feasible and would
10 benefit law enforcement, the report shall also recommend a
11 strategy for implementation.

