

Senate Bill No. 140

Passed the Senate April 22, 2013

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly April 18, 2013

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2013, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 30015 to the Penal Code, relating to firearms, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 140, Leno. Firearms: prohibited persons.

Existing law establishes the Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account in the General Fund with moneys in the account available upon appropriation by the Legislature. Existing law requires the Attorney General to establish and maintain an online database to be known as the Prohibited Armed Persons File, sometimes referred to as the Armed Prohibited Persons System, to cross-reference persons who have ownership or possession of a firearm with those who are prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm.

This bill would appropriate \$24,000,000 from the Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account to the Department of Justice to address the backlog in the Armed Prohibited Persons System, thereby making an appropriation. The bill would require the department to report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee regarding ways the backlog in the Armed Prohibited Persons System has been reduced or eliminated, as specified. The bill would make related findings and declarations.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Appropriation: yes.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) California is the first and only state in the nation to establish an automated system for tracking handgun and assault weapon owners who might fall into a prohibited status.

(b) The online database, which is currently known as the Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS), cross-references all handgun and assault weapon owners across the state against criminal history

records to determine persons who have been, or will become, prohibited from possessing a firearm subsequent to the legal acquisition or registration of a firearm or assault weapon.

(c) Each day, the list of armed prohibited persons in California grows by about 15 to 20 people. There are currently more than 20,000 armed prohibited persons in California. Collectively, these individuals are believed to be in possession of over 39,000 handguns and 1,670 assault weapons.

(d) Neither the Department of Justice nor local law enforcement has sufficient resources to confiscate the enormous backlog of weapons, nor can they keep up with the daily influx of newly prohibited persons.

(e) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this measure to allow the Department of Justice to utilize additional Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account funds for the limited purpose of addressing the current APPS backlog and the illegal possession of these firearms, which presents a substantial danger to public safety.

SEC. 2. Section 30015 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

30015. (a) The sum of twenty-four million dollars (\$24,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account of the General Fund to the Department of Justice to address the backlog in the Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS) and the illegal possession of firearms by those prohibited persons.

(b) No later than March 1, 2015, and no later than March 1 each year thereafter, the department shall report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee all of the following for the immediately preceding calendar year:

(1) The degree to which the backlog in the APPS has been reduced or eliminated.

(2) The number of agents hired for enforcement of the APPS.

(3) The number of people cleared from the APPS.

(4) The number of people added to the APPS.

(5) The number of people in the APPS before and after the relevant reporting period, including a breakdown of why each person in the APPS is prohibited from possessing a firearm.

(6) The number of firearms recovered due to enforcement of the APPS.

(7) The number of contacts made during the APPS enforcement efforts.

(8) Information regarding task forces or collaboration with local law enforcement on reducing the APPS backlog.

(c) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under subdivision (b) is inoperative on March 1, 2019, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

(2) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (b) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to address the current Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS) backlog and the illegal possession of firearms, which presents an immediate danger to public safety, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.

Approved _____, 2013

Governor