

# Senate Bill 377

## Closing Loopholes on Illegal Firearm Sales

Senator Nancy Skinner (SD 9)

### BILL SUMMARY

California maintains a roster of handguns certified as legal to sell and purchase in the state. Handguns not on this list are known as “off roster,” and are unlawful to purchase or sell in the state. However, a loophole in CA law allows law enforcement officers to buy these illegal, off-roster guns. SB 377 would help rid our streets of these off-roster guns by closing that loophole.

Another concerning practice is when law enforcement agencies purchase weapons from vendors who are not in compliance with state and federal firearm laws. SB 377 would also direct the Department of Justice to vet firearms vendors to ensure that local or state agencies are not purchasing firearms from vendors with a history of violating firearms laws.

### ISSUE

In recent years, there have been high-profile scandals involving California officers who purchased off-roster firearms and then sold them, effectively becoming [illegal arms dealers](#). Incidents like this have led the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to issue a bulletin to California law enforcement agencies warning about the growing trend of law enforcement officers engaging in the business of unlicensed firearms sales.

Existing law exempts law enforcement officers from the restriction of purchasing or selling off-roster guns for personal use. These officers include those who work for police agencies, sheriff's offices, and those employed by a wide-range of other public agencies, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, Parks and Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, county welfare fraud investigators, and police at college campuses and K-12 schools.

Additionally, existing law does not require law enforcement officers to wait 10 days — like all other Californians — to purchase legal handguns. SB 377 would also close this loophole and require officers to undergo the 10-day waiting period.

Finally, law enforcement agencies have been found to purchase firearms for their agency from dealers who violate federal firearms law. A [recent analysis](#) by Brady: United Against Gun Violence revealed that at least 90 California law enforcement agencies have spent more than \$20 million buying firearms and other materials from dealers with a serious history of violating federal firearms laws.

### SOLUTION

To help reduce the sale of off-roster handguns and prevent public agencies from purchasing firearms from questionable vendors, SB 377 would:

- Close loopholes in existing law that allow CA law enforcement officers to buy illegal firearms for personal use or to resell them; **AND**
- Have CA DOJ develop regulations that would ban law enforcement agencies from purchasing firearms and materials from businesses who are not responsible sellers or who do not comply with all state and federal firearm laws.

### SUPPORT

Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence  
March for Our Lives

### CONTACT

Kapri Walker  
Office of Senator Nancy Skinner  
1021 O Street, Suite 8630  
(916) 651-4009 | [Kapri.Walker@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Kapri.Walker@sen.ca.gov)