

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: May 7, 2013

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller *Gerry F. Miller* For Council File No: 13-0002-S49
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 13-04-0262

SUBJECT: Resolution (Parks - Perry) to support AB 48, which would require ammunition to be sold by licensed dealers, would require ammunition purchasers to provide identification, and requires ammunition sales to be reported to the California Department of Justice

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Parks- Perry) to include in the City's 2013 – 2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 48 (Skinner), which would require vendors of ammunition for firearms to be licensed, and would require purchasers to show identification when purchasing ammunition, and subject buyers to background check and possible enforcement if they are not allowed to own a gun.

SUMMARY

On April 3, 2013, a Resolution (Parks - Perry) was introduced to support AB 48 (Skinner), legislation which would initiate controls on ammunition sales. AB 48 would require ammunition vendors to be licensed with the state and require ammunition purchasers to show identification and submit to a background check, among other provisions. The Resolution states that it is currently more difficult to buy cigarettes, alcohol, and some cold medicines than it is ammunition. The Resolution also states that AB 48 is the most far-reaching gun control measure proposed in California, and that this legislation would address the issues of public safety raised as a result of the mass shootings in Aurora, Colorado and Newtown, Connecticut.

The Resolution further states that AB 48 would also outlaw kits that convert ammunition magazines to high capacity magazines, and requires the state to report sales of more than 3,000 rounds of ammunition over a five day period to local law enforcement. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support AB 48, which would require ammunition to be sold by licensed dealers, would require buyers to provide identification and subject them to background checks and possible enforcement if they are not eligible to own a weapon, among other requirements.

BACKGROUND

While California has some of the most stringent gun control measures in the United States, the state has very few restrictions on ammunition sales. Some cities, such as Sacramento and Los Angeles, place controls on the sale of ammunition, but the vast majority do not. Current law prohibits individuals convicted of a felony, a violent misdemeanor, or individuals with mental health issues from possessing or purchasing ammunition. However, it is difficult or impossible

in most parts of the state to enforce these restrictions, as ammunition vendors are not required to check identification or keep records of sales.

AB 48 would address these shortcomings by requiring ammunition vendors to be licensed by the state; individuals making an ammunition purchase to show identification; sales of ammunition be reported to the California Department of Justice; and, local law enforcement to be informed when an individual purchases a large amount of ammunition over a short period of time. These new regulations will limit the availability of ammunition to individuals who are prohibited from owning firearms. Further, backers of the bill believe that this legislation would make it more difficult for individuals to go on shooting sprees, as large ammunition purchases would be monitored and reported to law enforcement.

In addition to ammunition sales controls, AB 48 would also make it illegal for gun owners to purchase parts that convert their ammunition magazines to high capacity magazines, which hold more than 10 rounds. Currently, it is not illegal to buy these conversion kits, and installing these kits converts legal, 10 round magazines, into illegal high capacity magazines. AB 48 would close this loophole and ban these kits, increasing public safety.

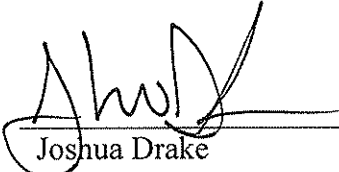
While no single gun control measure can eliminate gun crimes and gun violence, AB 48 would be an effective addition to California's gun control regime. The City of Los Angeles is a leader in the state on monitoring ammunition purchases, including requiring identification to be shown and sales to be reported to the Police Department (LAPD). This legislation would ensure that individuals who are prohibited from purchasing ammunition in the City will not be able to purchase ammunition without scrutiny in an adjacent jurisdiction.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Police Department

BILL STATUS

02/05/2013	Referred to the Committee on Public Safety
04/03/2013	Passed as amended in Committee
04/04/2013	Read second time and amended
04/08/2013	Re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations


Joshua Drake
Analyst

GFM:MF:jwd

Attachment: Resolution (Parks - Perry)

13-0002-549

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

APR 5 2013

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, one of the most far-reaching gun-control measures proposed this year in California was passed in the Assembly Public Safety Committee by a vote of 5-2 yesterday after its author said it is needed to address an "epidemic of gun violence" in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the bill, AB 48 by Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) would require ammunition to be sold by licensed dealers, would require buyers to provide identification and subject them to background checks and possible enforcement if they are not eligible to carry guns; and

WHEREAS, the bill would also outlaw kits for magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds and require the state to notify local law enforcement agencies when someone buys more than 3,000 rounds of ammunition in a five-day period; and

WHEREAS, the bill addresses issues raised in recent mass shootings in Connecticut and Colorado; and

WHEREAS, although the State already requires people to show ID when buying cigarettes, alcohol and some cough medicines, it is easier now to buy bullets than to buy alcohol, cigarettes or Sudafed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program support for AB 48 (Skinner) which would require ammunition to be sold by licensed dealers, would require buyers to provide identification and subject them to background checks and possible enforcement if they are not eligible to carry guns.

PRESENTED BY:

Bernard C. Parks
BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilman, 8th District

SECONDED BY:

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ORIGINAL

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