



September 15th, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95514

RE: Senate Bill 715: Criminal law.

Position: Veto Requested

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, Incorporated (CRPA), its members and supporters throughout California, I write to strongly urge your veto of Senate Bill 715 (SB 715). CRPA, founded in 1875, works tirelessly to defend the civil and constitutional rights of individuals who choose to responsibly own and use firearms. CRPA promotes the recreational shooting sports, and provides safety, education, and skills training to enable all persons a more enjoyable and safe recreational experience.

SB 715 started out last session as SB 914, a bill to ‘clarify’ what a valid hunting license is as it relates to the purchase of a firearm. After multiple amendments the bill morphed to include numerous ‘fixes’ that unnecessarily restrict the purchase, access and transfer of firearms and firearm parts by law abiding citizens. SB 715 is such a convoluted mess that neither the author nor his staff are able to explain what this bill does!

Our opposition is therefore based on three main points:

First, do we really need legislation to define what a valid hunting license is? The date on the license itself does a more than adequate job of showing its validity.

Second, after multiple amendments allowing loans with the ‘expressed permission’ of the minor’s parents and loans not to exceed 10 days, SB 715 will effectively kill any youth shooting sports program where the minor’s parents are not present. I have over 35 years experience as a state certified Hunter Education Instructor and California Peace Officer Standards of Training certified Range Master. I assure you 10 days is NOT enough time to safely train and prepare a youth for the responsibility and skill set require to safely and ethicly harvest a big game animal. All SB 715 does is further complicate the legal loan of a firearm to a youth and will turn un-knowing parents into ‘criminals’!

Third, SB 715 raises the cost of eligibility checks on certain ammunition purchases and precursor firearms parts. For years the Department of Justice (DOJ) has been allowed to overcharge ‘fees’ for Dealer Record of Sales (DROS) transactions. These DROS fees acuminated into large surpluses that the DOJ then unlawfully used on activities not related to DROS.

What is missing from SB 715 is a clear definition of the term “loan.” As was the issue with SB 914, these changes imply there is no lawful manner to simply allow a minor to “use” a persons firearm while that person is present and able to immediately take possession of the firearm. So all of these youth activities where an adult is simply allowing a minor to use a gun is not covered anywhere in the law, thereby implying the law expressly forbids such conduct.

Governor Newsom, you previously vetoed Senate Bill 914, stating in part; *“I am returning Senate Bill 914 without my signature. This bill would, beginning July 1, 2021, require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to verify the validity of a hunting license with the Department of Fish and Wildlife for a sale or transfer of a firearm to a person under 21 years of age. DOJ does not currently have the technology to verify the validity of hunting licenses. In order to meet the requirements of this bill, it would take DOJ 30 months to complete the information technology project. During this time, they would have to redirect existing application development resources, which could affect the work currently scheduled for seven previously enacted bills impacting the firearms information technology systems. I am concerned that adding an information technology project will impede DOJ's ability to perform the work it has already been tasked.”*

Governor Newsom, the DOJ is no more ready to take on this task than they were last year. We would like to see the Department of Justice focus on far more important tasks on their plate like getting over 10,000 known armed violent felons off our streets and out of our communities!

The safety of Californians is at the very foundation of our organization. It has been our consistent goal to work toward common sense solutions regarding the issue of crime and firearm ownership. This can be done, however, without sacrificing our Constitutional rights and the ability of the law abiding to recreate, protect their families, to operate a lawful business, and provide firearms for sale at a price all Californians can afford. This is just a bad piece of legislation that attempts to do too much, a one size fits all attempt that does nothing to make California safer! For the foregoing reasons the California Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. stands in opposition to SB 715 and urges your veto.

Respectfully Submitted,
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