



AB 1092 - Firearms: concealed carry licenses.

IN BRIEF:

Assembly Bill 1092 extends the duration of Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) licenses issued in California. Under the bill, CCW licenses issued after January 1, 2027, would be valid for up to four years, with a transitional three-year license term for licenses issued between January 1, 2026, and January 1, 2027.

EXISTING LAW:

Current law generally prohibits individuals from carrying a concealed firearm or a loaded firearm in public without a valid license. Licensing authorities are required to issue or renew a CCW license if specified conditions are met, including that the applicant is not disqualified from holding the license and has completed the required course of training.

Under existing law, new and renewal CCW licenses are valid for a period not to exceed two years from the date of issuance, unless otherwise specified. Licenses issued based on a person's place of employment or business are subject to separate duration and geographic limitations.

THE ISSUE:

California residents seeking a CCW license must complete a rigorous application process that includes background checks, fingerprinting, training, and ongoing compliance with eligibility requirements. Despite this, current law requires license holders to renew their CCW permits every two years, even when there have been no changes to their eligibility or status. This short renewal cycle places unnecessary financial and administrative burdens on law-abiding individuals and creates inefficiencies for local law enforcement agencies, which must devote staff time and resources to processing frequent renewals.

California's two-year CCW license term is also shorter than that of most other states, including states governed by both Republican- and Democrat-majority legislatures, many of which issue licenses valid for three, four, or five years. As a result, California permit holders and issuing authorities face requirements that are more restrictive and resource-intensive than national norms. AB 1092 seeks to modernize California's approach by bringing license duration into closer alignment with other states while preserving all existing eligibility, training, and public safety standards.

THE SOLUTION:

AB 1092 extends the CCW license duration to better align with the realities of the licensing process while maintaining all existing eligibility, training, and background check requirements.

Specifically, the bill provides that licenses issued after January 1, 2026, and before January 1, 2027, may be valid for up to three years. Licenses issued on or after January 1, 2027, may be valid for up to four years. The bill also makes conforming statutory changes to reflect the new license terms.

By reducing the frequency of renewals, AB 1092 streamlines the licensing process for law-abiding Californians, reduces administrative workload for local agencies, and allows public resources to be used more efficiently—without weakening public safety standards.

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