

SB 554 is not good law. This law would make a felon out of law-abiding citizens who legally are allowed to carry concealed but could very easily, without knowingly wander into a "gun free zone" unbeknownst to them. Gun free zones invite more crime, not less. Dr. John Lott states that "The overwhelming majority of peer review academic research by economists and criminologists conclude that ownership of permitted concealed handguns cause a reduction in violent crime." In fact, only 1 % of crimes occur with legally purchased guns. A criminal usually does not carry a gun obtained legally and will not abide by this law. I see this law as a de facto ban on conceal carry.

Besides being confusing to the law abiding conceal carry holder, this law can put a person in physical danger if they are not allowed to carry. There is more crime in "gun free zones" than area where firearms are allowed. Criminals will never follow the law and still carry firearms if they wish. Statistics show that conceal carry holders commit less crimes than police. Most shootings occur in 'gun free zones'. Could this be because someone wanting to commit a crime with a gun may think twice in an area where they could encounter someone armed to defend themselves. Its much easier to go where they know they will not be confronted. Cities with the most crime have the strictest gun control laws.

Furthermore, SB 554 increases permit fees from \$50 to \$100 on initial applications, and from \$50 to \$75 for renewals. Fees substantially impact access to right-to-carry. Increasing fees on carry permits places financial burden on the Second Amendment and taxes individuals out of exercising their Constitutional Rights.

This law is wrong and punitive to the law-abiding citizen. Will it decrease crime? I doubt it. In fact, crime will probably increase, and innocent citizens will be put into harm's way more frequently. This comes across as just a way to infringe the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Thank you,

Pat Krikorian