



Restricting Bulk Weapons Purchases

[HB 2054](#) (Rep. Farivar)

Bulk purchases of firearms are a known indicator of illegal firearms trafficking. However, there is no federal limit on the amount of firearms that can be purchased during a sale. Restricting the number of firearms an individual can purchase in a given period of time helps prevent firearms from entering the secondary market, thereby reducing the flow of illegal firearms in our state.

What the Research Says:

Restricting bulk weapons purchases is one of the best ways to ensure that dangerous weapons do not enter the black market and, ultimately, into the hands of malicious actors.

- Since the passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968, the federal government has required that federal firearms licensees report multiple firearm purchases within five days because it is a significant indicator of arms trafficking.¹
- In fact, guns sold in multiple sales were found to be 64% more likely to be involved in crime, and twice as likely to be found with their serial numbers removed, an indication of gun trafficking.²
- When this legislation was introduced in Virginia, for example, the percentage of seized trafficked firearms originating from the state dropped significantly, by 50% for guns seized in the northeast corridor.³

Other Jurisdictions:

Washington's proposed law – one firearm purchased in a 30 day period, with exceptions for law enforcement, collectors, and others – is similar to limits in other states. Currently, five states have laws limiting the number of firearms a person can purchase each month.⁴

- California limits people from purchasing more than one firearm each month - this includes completed and unfinished frames and receivers.
- Maryland limits handgun and assault weapon purchases to one per month.
- New Jersey and Virginia limit handgun purchases to one per month.
- Connecticut limits handgun purchases to a maximum of 3 per month.
- New York City restricts all firearm purchases to one in 90 days.

¹ <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/reporting-multiple-firearms-sales>

² <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221074.pdf>

³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8637175/>

⁴ <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/crime-guns/bulk-gun-purchases/>