

Misc II - NRA

# California Gun Control Bill Killed

## Sacramento

The State Senate Judiciary Committee soundly defeated legislation yesterday requiring registration of all handguns in California.

The bill by freshman Senator Nate Holden (Dem-LA) also would have imposed other new restrictions on ownership and use of pistols and revolvers.

It was rejected by a 2-6 vote.

Holden argued the measure would close "loopholes" in existing gun control laws and substantially reduce the number of handguns carried by youthful criminals.

Under current law, persons who buy handguns complete what amounts to registration when they fill out purchasing forms that are filed with the state. There is a five-day waiting period before the gun can be taken home.

There is no registration requirement, however, for guns currently in possession or for the transfer of firearms.

The Holden bill would have required more exhaustive registration through police or sheriff's departments for all handguns a person owns plus any new purchases, transfers or loans. Fingerprints would have been required and the waiting period would have been extended to 15 days.

Additionally, gun owners would have to complete a course approved by the state Fish and Game Department in hunter safety before registration would be granted. Such courses now are required only to obtain a hunting license.

Holden's bill would have imposed stiff penalties for persons who supply handguns to minors. Currently, persons under 18 are allowed to own guns with their parents consent.

No person under age 18 could have a handgun except on a shooting range. Gun owners could not sell, give or loan their weapons to friends without going through registration.

The bill was supported by high school principals and the City of Los Angeles.

It was opposed by the National Rifle Association. A spokesman warned of the "sinister" implications when the government begins keeping files on gun owners who have committed no crimes.