

# Assembly Bill 2497

## School Gun Violence Prevention Act

### Assemblymember Jim Cooper

#### SUMMARY

---

AB 2497 will enhance early warning systems and security in schools for the purposes of stopping school shootings before they happen and better address the threat during an “active shooter” situation. AB 2497 will require a school counselor at every middle and junior high school with the primary responsibility to detect and report early warning signs of threats and creates a grant opportunity for law enforcement to fund a School Resource Officer (SRO) program at high schools. AB 2497 will expand mandated reporting and will authorize the Department of Justice (DOJ) to flag those charged with threatening the safety of school staff and students. Among other sources of funding, AB 2497 will impose a sales tax on firearms and ammunition to fund these programs.

#### BACKGROUND

---

Studies show that in 81% of U.S. school shootings at least one other person besides the shooter had information of the attack or threat of attack and in 59% of the shootings multiple persons had information of a possible pending attack. In all these incidents intelligence was available to other students, staff or law enforcement that was ignored or not acted upon. Statistics also show that rarely these acts are “sudden” or acted upon randomly. Rather these attacks had some degree of observable behavior which suggested the assailant was planning or preparing for a school site attack.

AB 2497 will provide an enhanced system to detect and act upon early warning signs at the middle school and junior high school level by mandating one counselor at each school. The primary responsibility of

these counselors will be to assess the basic threat of a shooting, or mass casualty incident, through direct communications to local law enforcement and the DOJ.

AB 2497 will provide funding to law enforcement agencies to staff a SRO program at the high school level. The SRO’s will have a primary responsibility to protect the lives of the school staff and students in the event of an active shooter, or mass casualty incident.

AB 2497 will expand the mandated reporting requirements of all school staff and school-site law enforcement and allow the DOJ to flag those who are identified as would-be-attackers so if they were ever to attempt to purchase a firearm the authorities are notified.

AB 2497 will create a funding structure for these programs through a sales tax on all firearms and ammunition as well as create new penalties for those who manufacture unregistered homemade firearms with the intent to sale them outside of existing law.

AB 2487 optimizes the use of our most valuable resources of school site staff and law enforcement by placing a priority on threats, or perceived threats, of violence and giving them a clear and direct procedure to assess and act on threats.

#### STATUS

---

Pending Committee Hearing(s)

#### CONTACT

---

Mike Ziegler  
Michael.ziegler@asm.ca.gov  
Phone: (916) 319-2715