SB25-003
Wildlife Commission Overview

March 5, 2026

COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

SENATE BILL 25-003

Senate Bill 25-003 was signed into law in Colorado on April 10, 2025 and codified in 18-12-101, 18-12-102, 18-12-302, 18-12-401.5, 18-12-108, 18-12-116, 33-9-115, 24-33.5-424, and 24-35-122.

The bill prohibits the manufacture, distribution, transfer, sale, and purchase of a Specified Semiautomatic Firearm (SSF), defined as a semiautomatic rifle or shotgun with a detachable magazine or a gas-operated semiautomatic handgun with a detachable magazine starting August 1, 2026. The bill also classifies a device that increases the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm as a dangerous weapon.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Involvement

- Develop and operate a system of records for administration of the Firearms Safety Program.
- Create a form for an applicant to submit to their county sheriff for review and issuance or denial of a firearms safety course eligibility card.
- Determine if applicant has verified Hunter Education so applicant attends either Basic or Extended firearms safety course.
- Establish curriculum for the Basic and Extended firearms safety course.
- Provide a report to the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee about the expenses incurred by CPW to implement the bill enacted earlier this year, on or before December 31, 2025 and on or before December 31 each year thereafter.

What SB25-003 Is Not

- Not a database for gun purchases or ownership
- Not a replacement for any existing purchase requirements
- Not a requirement for ammunition purchases
- Does not prohibit the use of SSFs
- Not a possession law, it is about purchase/transfer after August 1, 2026
- Any training or background checks done for the CHP process are not reciprocal to this SSF education/purchase program.

Department of Revenue

- The list of what guns are SSFs, by statute (per C.R.S. 24-35-122), will be determined by the Department of Revenue (DOR), who currently permits firearms dealers in the state of Colorado. The list will be on DOR's website. At this time the list has not been made public.

- DOR Firearms Dealer Division

Customer Journey

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Customer Application: The process begins on the CPW website where the customer creates a user profile and submits a simple application. The profile is continuously accessible and updatable, which is crucial due to the extended timeline of the overall process

Sheriff's Office Visit: The customer presents the completed application, results of a name-based background check, and a government-issued photo ID to the Sheriff's office. Fees are collected by the Sheriff to cover their costs, as well as the fee for CPW's program administration and operations.

Sheriff Review and Eligibility Card Issuance: The Sheriff reviews the documentation, determines eligibility, and issues the eligibility card. This information is entered into the FSS System

Firearm Safety System

Hunter Education Verification: CPW verifies the customer's hunter education status to determine eligibility for the basic course. This verification is systematically checked against current record systems.

Customer Journey continued

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Course Enrollment: The customer enrolls in and takes a firearm safety course from a Sheriff-verified instructor, following the instructor's standard sign-up and class enrollment procedures

Instructor Verification and Exam: The instructor verifies the eligibility card and any hunter education information via the FSS system. Upon course completion, the customer takes a required exam, and the instructor enters the pass/fail results into the FSS. The FSS will generate and deliver a certificate of completion to the customer.

Firearm Purchase: The customer selects a firearm for purchase at a Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) dealer, who then initiates the purchase process.

Firearm Dealer Verification: The FFL confirms the required information, including the successful completion of the course and passing of the exam, and enters this information into the Instacheck system for final review.

Firearm Safety System

Stakeholder Engagement

Sheriffs

January/February:

- Online webinar
- In-person with Administrators
- In-person with Sheriffs
- Working with Task Force of Administrators

Coming:

- Online training of database system

Firearm Instructors

January:

- Online webinar
- In-person meetings on curriculum
- Working with Advisory Council of Instructors on curriculum
- In-person meetings Denver/West slope

Coming:

- Online training of database system

Stakeholder Engagement

Firearm Dealers

January/February:

- Online webinar
- In-person meetings on process
- In-person meetings on process Denver/West Slope

Coming:

- Online training of database system

General Public

January/February:

- Multiple in-person meetings on process in Denver/Ft. Collins/Grand Junction

Coming:

- Online webinar in April
- In-person meetings, Pueblo in March, Denver in April, Durango in May

Contact Information

Firearms Safety Program email:

dnr_cpw_firearmsafety@state.co.us

Website:

CPW Firearm Safety pages

(https://cpw.state.co.us/specified-semiautomatic-firearms)

Firearms Training and Safety Course Record Fee

- Per 33-9-115(5)(a) – *The commission shall establish a firearms training and safety course record fee for a person to be included in the system. The fee must reflect actual direct and indirect costs to implement this section. The commission may adjust the fee, but shall not adjust the fee more than one time each year……*
- Per 33-9-115(5)(c) – By June 30, 2030, CPW must repay itself the money loaned plus interest.

What we know:

❖ CPW borrowed just over $1.5 million dollars from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund to provide funding for the Firearms Safety Program until fee collection is initiated.

Firearms Training and Safety Course Record Fee

What we know (continued):

- Expenses are estimated at about $750K a year, with first and second years higher due to startup costs, namely the database described earlier.
- The Fiscal Note for the legislation projected 50,000 participants at $40 per person, for $2 million in fee revenue.

What we DON'T know:

- What guns will be on DOR's SSF list. Unknown if it will be few or many.
- CBI tracks general categories of guns purchased ie. handgun, long gun, and other, will not help to project SSFs.
- How many people will be utilizing the program. First and second year numbers are expected to be down.

QUESTIONS