

Subject Establishing standards for the storage of firearms

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Overview

Under current law, it is a crime to store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knows, or should know, that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm unless the person takes reasonable action to prevent a child from accessing the firearm.

This bill expands the requirements related to the storage of firearms to say that a person must either store a firearm unloaded and equipped with a locking device or else store the firearm in a firearm storage unit or gun room. Failure to store firearms as required is a crime that may be punished by a petty misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony sentence. The bill also appropriates money for the commissioner of corrections.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | Negligent storage of firearms. |
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Subd. 1. Definitions. Adds definitions for “authorized user,” “firearm storage unit,” “gun room,” and “locking device,” and amends the definition of “firearm.”

Subd. 2. Access to firearms. Establishes that a person may not store, keep, or leave a firearm in any place unless the firearm is (1) unloaded and equipped with a locking device or (2) placed in a locked firearm storage unit or a locked gun room. States that a firearm is not considered stored, kept, or left during the period that it is under the direct physical control or reach of the person. Provides that a person who violates the section is guilty of an offense and may be sentenced as provided in subdivision 2a.

Subd. 2a. Penalties. Establishes a petty misdemeanor penalty for a person who violates subdivision 2 and is not subject to any of the other penalties in the section. Establishes a gross misdemeanor penalty for a person if a child is present in the area where the firearm is stored, kept, or left. Establishes a felony penalty

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| | with a maximum period of imprisonment of three years if a loaded, unsecured firearm is accessed by a child or a person who is prohibited from possessing firearms. Establishes a felony penalty with a maximum period of imprisonment of five years if an unsecured firearm is used in certain crimes. |
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Subd. 3. Limitations. Provides that subdivisions 2 and 2a do not apply to transportation of a firearm consistent with the requirements of section 97B.045, a firearm used at a high school shooting sport event, a firearm being used at an area or facility designated or operated primarily for the use of firearms or at a shooting preserve, firearms owned or possessed by a peace officer while the officer is engaged in the performance of official duties, or firearms stored in a police or sheriff station.

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| 2 | Department of Corrections; appropriation. |
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| | Appropriates \$10,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of corrections for the costs associated with this act. Establishes a base for the appropriation of \$19,000 beginning in fiscal year 2026. |
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