

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN, ABINANTI, ENGLEBRIGHT, JAFFEE, ROSENTHAL, GALEF, COOK, ORTIZ, CYMBROWITZ, DINOWITZ, MAYER, SCARBOROUGH, WEPRIN, FAHY, BROOK-KRASNY, BRAUNSTEIN, MOSLEY, CAMARA, BUCHWALD, SCHIMEL, SEPULVEDA, KAVANAGH -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO, AUBRY, BRENNAN, CLARK, GOTTFRIED, HOOPER, PERRY, THIELE, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law and the general business law, in relation to safe weapon storage

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Short title; construction. 1. This act shall be known and  
2 may be cited as "Nicholas's law".  
3 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to preempt or  
4 supersede any local law the provisions of which are no less stringent or  
5 restrictive than the provisions of this act.  
6 S 2. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds the following:  
7 The presence of unsecured, easily accessible, weapons in homes and  
8 other places increases the likelihood of death or injury from accidents  
9 and impulsive acts. Guns left unattended must be kept locked or stored  
10 securely to prevent access by children and others who should not have  
11 access to them. Gun owners and other lawful possessors are responsible  
12 for keeping their weapons from falling into the hands of children and  
13 other unauthorized individuals.  
14 S 3. The penal law is amended by adding ten new sections 265.50,  
15 265.51, 265.52, 265.53, 265.54, 265.55, 265.56, 265.57, 265.58 and  
16 265.59 to read as follows:  
17 S 265.50 DEFINITIONS; SAFE WEAPON STORAGE.  
18 AS USED IN SECTIONS 265.51 THROUGH 265.59 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOW-  
19 ING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD00543-01-5

1 1. "PERSON" INCLUDES A NATURAL PERSON, CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP,  
2 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OR ANY OTHER ENTITY.

3 2. "SAFE STORAGE DEPOSITORY" MEANS A SAFE OR OTHER SECURE CONTAINER  
4 WHICH, WHEN LOCKED, IS INCAPABLE OF BEING OPENED WITHOUT THE KEY, COMBI-  
5 NATION, OR OTHER UNLOCKING MECHANISM AND IS CAPABLE OF PREVENTING AN  
6 UNAUTHORIZED PERSON FROM OBTAINING ACCESS TO AND POSSESSION OF THE WEAP-  
7 ON CONTAINED THEREIN. THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE SHALL DEVELOP AND  
8 PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS SETTING FORTH THE SPECIFIC DEVICES OR  
9 THE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND CRITERIA THEREFOR WHICH CONSTITUTE AN EFFEC-  
10 TIVE SAFE STORAGE DEPOSITORY.

11 3. "WEAPON" MEANS A "RIFLE", "SHOTGUN", "FIREARM", "ANTIQUE FIREARM",  
12 OR "MACHINE GUN".

13 S 265.51 SAFE STORAGE OF WEAPONS; APPLICABILITY.

14 THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 265.52 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT APPLY TO  
15 ANY DULY LICENSED MANUFACTURER OF WEAPONS.

16 S 265.52 FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE.

17 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND  
18 DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE OWNS OR IS A BAILEE OR OTHER KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY  
19 POSSESSOR OF A WEAPON AND STORES OR OTHERWISE LEAVES A WEAPON OUT OF HIS  
20 OR HER IMMEDIATE POSSESSION OR CONTROL WITHOUT HAVING FIRST SECURELY  
21 LOCKED SUCH WEAPON IN AN APPROPRIATE SAFE STORAGE DEPOSITORY OR RENDERED  
22 IT INCAPABLE OF BEING FIRED BY THE USE OF A GUN LOCKING DEVICE APPROPRI-  
23 ATE TO THAT WEAPON.

24 FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE IS A VIOLATION.

25 S 265.53 FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

26 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE FIRST  
27 DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON  
28 SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 265.52 OF THIS ARTICLE  
29 AND HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE TO STORE A  
30 WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 265.52 OF THIS  
31 ARTICLE WITHIN THE PRECEDING TEN YEARS.

32 FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE FIRST DEGREE IS A CLASS A  
33 MISDEMEANOR.

34 S 265.54 AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND  
35 DEGREE.

36 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN  
37 THE SECOND DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE TO STORE  
38 A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 265.52 OF  
39 THIS ARTICLE AND SUCH WEAPON IS REMOVED BY ANY OTHER PERSON FROM THE  
40 PREMISES WHERE IT WAS STORED UNSAFELY.

41 AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE IS A  
42 CLASS A MISDEMEANOR.

43 S 265.55 AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE FIRST  
44 DEGREE.

45 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN  
46 THE FIRST DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE TO STORE  
47 A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 265.52 OF  
48 THIS ARTICLE AND SUCH WEAPON DISCHARGES AND THEREBY CAUSES, DIRECTLY OR  
49 INDIRECTLY, PHYSICAL INJURY, SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY, OR DEATH TO ANY  
50 OTHER PERSON.

51 AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE FIRST DEGREE IS A  
52 CLASS E FELONY.

53 S 265.56 AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE FIRST  
54 DEGREE; APPLICATION.

55 IF A PERSON WHO IS SUSPECTED OF VIOLATING SECTION 265.55 OF THIS ARTI-  
56 CLE IS THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A CHILD WHO IS INJURED OR WHO DIES AS

1 THE RESULT OF SUCH VIOLATION, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHALL CONSIDER,  
2 AMONG OTHER FACTORS, THE IMPACT OF THE INJURY OR DEATH ON THE PERSON WHO  
3 IS SUSPECTED OF VIOLATING SECTION 265.55 OF THIS ARTICLE WHEN DECIDING  
4 WHETHER OR NOT TO PROSECUTE SUCH PERSON FOR SUCH CRIME.

5 A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A CHILD WHO IS INJURED OR WHO DIES AS A RESULT  
6 OF A VIOLATION OF SECTION 265.55 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE PROSECUTED  
7 ONLY IN THOSE INSTANCES IN WHICH THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN BEHAVED IN A  
8 RECKLESS MANNER.

9 S 265.57 FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE IN THE SECOND DEGREE.

10 NO PERSON SHALL SELL, DELIVER, OR TRANSFER ANY WEAPON TO ANOTHER  
11 PERSON UNLESS THE TRANSFEREE IS PROVIDED AT THE TIME OF SALE, DELIVERY,  
12 OR TRANSFER WITH:

13 1. A GUN LOCKING DEVICE THAT IS CAPABLE OF PREVENTING THAT PARTICULAR  
14 WEAPON FROM FIRING OR A SAFE STORAGE DEPOSITORY; AND

15 2. A COPY OF THE FOLLOWING WARNING IN CONSPICUOUS AND LEGIBLE TWENTY-  
16 FOUR POINT TYPE ON EIGHT AND ONE-HALF INCHES BY ELEVEN INCHES PAPER  
17 STATING IN BOLD PRINT THE FOLLOWING WARNING:

18 WARNING

19 RESPONSIBLE FIREARM STORAGE IS THE LAW IN NEW YORK STATE. FIREARMS MUST  
20 EITHER BE STORED WITH A GUN LOCKING DEVICE OR IN A SAFE STORAGE DEPOSI-  
21 TORY OR NOT BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE POSSESSION AND CONTROL OF THE  
22 OWNER OR OTHER LAWFUL POSSESSOR. FIREARMS SHOULD BE STORED UNLOADED AND  
23 LOCKED IN A LOCATION SEPARATE FROM AMMUNITION. LEAVING FIREARMS ACCESSI-  
24 BLE TO A CHILD OR OTHER PERSON MAY SUBJECT YOU TO IMPRISONMENT, FINE, OR  
25 BOTH.

26 FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE IN THE SECOND DEGREE IS A VIOLATION.

27 S 265.58 FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

28 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE IN THE FIRST DEGREE  
29 WHEN HE OR SHE COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE IN THE  
30 SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 265.57 OF THIS ARTICLE AND HAS BEEN  
31 PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE IN THE  
32 SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 265.57 OF THIS ARTICLE WITHIN THE  
33 PRECEDING TEN YEARS.

34 FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE IN THE FIRST DEGREE IS A CLASS B MISDEMEA-  
35 NOR.

36 S 265.59 SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF A LICENSE TO CARRY, POSSESS,  
37 REPAIR OR DISPOSE OF A FIREARM OR FIREARMS PURSUANT TO  
38 SECTION 400.00 OF THIS CHAPTER AND INELIGIBILITY FOR SUCH A  
39 LICENSE; ORDER TO SURRENDER FIREARMS.

40 1. WHENEVER (A) A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON  
41 SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE UNDER SECTION 265.52 OF THIS ARTICLE OR  
42 AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE UNDER  
43 SECTION 265.54 OF THIS ARTICLE, AND HAS A PRIOR CONVICTION OF FAILURE TO  
44 STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND DEGREE UNDER SECTION 265.52 OF THIS  
45 ARTICLE OR AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE SECOND  
46 DEGREE UNDER SECTION 265.54 OF THIS ARTICLE; OR (B) A PERSON IS  
47 CONVICTED OF FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON SAFELY IN THE FIRST DEGREE UNDER  
48 SECTION 265.53 OF THIS ARTICLE OR AGGRAVATED FAILURE TO STORE A WEAPON  
49 SAFELY IN THE FIRST DEGREE UNDER SECTION 265.55 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE  
50 COURT SHALL REVOKE ANY EXISTING LICENSE POSSESSED BY SUCH PERSON, ORDER  
51 SUCH PERSON INELIGIBLE FOR SUCH A LICENSE, AND ORDER THE IMMEDIATE  
52 SURRENDER PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (F) OF PARAGRAPH ONE OF SUBDIVISION A  
53 OF SECTION 265.20 OF THIS ARTICLE AND SUBDIVISION SIX OF SECTION 400.05  
54 OF THIS CHAPTER, OF ANY OR ALL FIREARMS OWNED OR POSSESSED, OR SUSPEND  
55 OR CONTINUE TO SUSPEND ANY SUCH EXISTING LICENSE POSSESSED BY SUCH  
56 PERSON, ORDER SUCH PERSON INELIGIBLE FOR SUCH A LICENSE, AND ORDER THE

1 IMMEDIATE SURRENDER PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (F) OF PARAGRAPH ONE OF  
2 SUBDIVISION A OF SECTION 265.20 OF THIS ARTICLE AND SUBDIVISION SIX OF  
3 SECTION 400.05 OF THIS CHAPTER, OF ANY OR ALL FIREARMS OWNED OR  
4 POSSESSED.

5 2. ANY SUSPENSION ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL REMAIN  
6 IN EFFECT FOR FIVE YEARS.

7 3. (A) WHENEVER A PERSON IS CONVICTED AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH ONE OF  
8 THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL REQUIRE THE RESPONDENT TO INFORM THE COURT  
9 OF ALL FIREARMS HE OR SHE OWNS OR POSSESSES. ANY ORDER TO SURRENDER ONE  
10 OR MORE FIREARMS SHALL SPECIFY A DATE AND TIME BY WHICH THE SURRENDER  
11 SHALL BE COMPLETED AND, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, SHALL DESCRIBE SUCH  
12 FIREARMS TO BE SURRENDERED AND SHALL DIRECT THE AUTHORITY RECEIVING SUCH  
13 SURRENDERED FIREARMS TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE COURT OF SUCH SURRENDER.

14 (B) THE PROMPT SURRENDER OF ONE OR MORE FIREARMS PURSUANT TO A COURT  
15 ORDER ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED A VOLUNTARY  
16 SURRENDER FOR PURPOSES OF SUBPARAGRAPH (F) OF PARAGRAPH ONE OF SUBDIVI-  
17 SION A OF SECTION 265.20 OF THIS ARTICLE. THE DISPOSITION OF ANY SUCH  
18 FIREARMS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION SIX  
19 OF SECTION 400.05 OF THIS CHAPTER.

20 (C) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO LIMIT,  
21 RESTRICT OR OTHERWISE IMPAIR THE AUTHORITY OF THE COURT TO ORDER AND  
22 DIRECT THE SURRENDER OF ANY OR ALL PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, RIFLES, SHOTGUNS  
23 OR OTHER FIREARMS OWNED OR POSSESSED BY A RESPONDENT PURSUANT TO THIS  
24 CHAPTER.

25 4. (A) THE COURT REVOKING OR SUSPENDING THE LICENSE, ORDERING A PERSON  
26 INELIGIBLE FOR SUCH LICENSE, OR ORDERING THE SURRENDER OF ANY FIREARM AS  
27 PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE DULY CONSTITUTED  
28 POLICE AUTHORITIES OF THE LOCALITY OF SUCH ACTION AND THE DIVISION OF  
29 STATE POLICE AT ITS OFFICE IN THE CITY OF ALBANY.

30 (B) WHERE AN ORDER OF REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, OR  
31 SURRENDER IS MODIFIED OR VACATED, THE COURT SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE  
32 DULY CONSTITUTED POLICE AUTHORITIES OF THE LOCALITY CONCERNING SUCH  
33 ACTION AND SHALL GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE THEREOF WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DELAY  
34 TO THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE AT ITS OFFICE IN THE CITY OF ALBANY.

35 5. THE RESPONDENT SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO A HEARING BEFORE THE COURT  
36 REGARDING ANY REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY OR SURRENDER ORDER  
37 ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, PROVIDED THAT NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVI-  
38 SION SHALL PRECLUDE THE COURT FROM ISSUING ANY SUCH ORDER PRIOR TO A  
39 HEARING. WHERE THE COURT HAS ISSUED SUCH AN ORDER PRIOR TO A HEARING, IT  
40 SHALL COMMENCE SUCH HEARING WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS OF THE DATE SUCH ORDER  
41 WAS ISSUED.

42 S 4. Section 400.00 of the penal law is amended by adding a new subdi-  
43 vision 18 to read as follows:

44 18. NOTICE. UPON THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF A LICENSE, THE LICENSING  
45 OFFICER SHALL ISSUE THEREWITH THE FOLLOWING NOTICE IN CONSPICUOUS AND  
46 LEGIBLE TWENTY-FOUR POINT TYPE ON EIGHT AND ONE-HALF INCHES BY ELEVEN  
47 INCHES PAPER STATING IN BOLD PRINT THE FOLLOWING:

48 WARNING  
49 RESPONSIBLE FIREARM STORAGE IS THE LAW IN NEW YORK STATE. FIREARMS MUST  
50 EITHER BE STORED WITH A GUN LOCKING DEVICE OR IN A SAFE STORAGE DEPOSI-  
51 TORY OR NOT BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE POSSESSION AND CONTROL OF THE  
52 OWNER OR OTHER LAWFUL POSSESSOR. FIREARMS SHOULD BE STORED UNLOADED AND  
53 LOCKED IN A LOCATION SEPARATE FROM AMMUNITION. LEAVING FIREARMS ACCESSI-  
54 BLE TO A CHILD OR OTHER PERSON MAY SUBJECT YOU TO IMPRISONMENT, FINE, OR  
55 BOTH.

1 S 5. Subdivision 2 of section 396-ee of the general business law, as  
2 added by chapter 189 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

3 (2) Every person, firm or corporation engaged in the retail business  
4 of selling rifles, shotguns or firearms, as such terms are defined in  
5 section 265.00 of the penal law, shall, in the place where such rifles,  
6 shotguns or firearms are displayed or transferred to the purchaser, post  
7 a notice conspicuously stating in bold print that: ["The use of a lock-  
8 ing device or safety lock is only one aspect of responsible firearm  
9 storage. For increased safety firearms should be stored unloaded and  
10 locked in a location that is both separate from their ammunition and  
11 inaccessible to children and any other unauthorized person."] "RESPONSI-  
12 BLE FIREARM STORAGE IS THE LAW IN NEW YORK STATE. FIREARMS MUST EITHER  
13 BE STORED WITH A GUN LOCKING DEVICE OR IN A SAFE STORAGE DEPOSITORY OR  
14 NOT BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE POSSESSION AND CONTROL OF THE OWNER OR  
15 OTHER LAWFUL POSSESSOR. FIREARMS SHOULD BE STORED UNLOADED AND LOCKED  
16 IN A LOCATION SEPARATE FROM AMMUNITION. LEAVING FIREARMS ACCESSIBLE TO A  
17 CHILD OR OTHER PERSON MAY SUBJECT YOU TO IMPRISONMENT, FINE, OR BOTH."

18 S 6. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or  
19 part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdic-  
20 tion to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invali-  
21 date the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to  
22 the words, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part thereof  
23 directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have  
24 been rendered.

25 S 7. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-  
26 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.