

STATE OF NEW YORK

1180

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 7, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI, GOTTFRIED, FERNANDEZ, McDONOUGH, FAHY, EPSTEIN, SAYEGH, LAVINE, COLTON, WILLIAMS, TAYLOR, HYNDMAN, GRIFFIN, DAVILA, STECK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, the general business law and the education law, in relation to criminally negligent storage of a weapon and weapons safety programs for children

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 the "children's weapon accident prevention act".

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 § 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that a
7 tragically large number of children have been accidentally killed or
8 seriously injured by negligently stored weapons; that placing weapons
9 within reach or easy access of children is irresponsible, encourages
10 such accidents and should be prohibited; and that legislative action is
11 necessary to protect the safety of our children.

12 § 3. Section 265.00 of the penal law is amended by adding five new
13 subdivisions 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 to read as follows:

14 32. "Weapon" means a "rifle", "shotgun" or "firearm".

15 33. "Locked box" means a safe, case or container which, when locked,
16 is incapable of being opened without the key, combination or other
17 unlocking mechanism, and is resistant to tampering by an unauthorized
18 person attempting to obtain access to and possession of the weapon or
19 ammunition contained therein. The division of state police shall develop
20 and promulgate rules and regulations setting forth the specific devices
21 or the minimum standards and criteria therefor which constitute an
22 effective locked box.

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

LBD00698-01-1

1 34. "Gun locking device" means an integrated design feature or an
2 attachable accessory that is resistant to tampering and is effective in
3 preventing the discharge of a weapon by a person who does not have
4 access to the key, combination or other mechanism used to disengage the
5 device.

6 35. "Loaded rifle" means any rifle loaded with ammunition or any rifle
7 which is possessed by one who, at the same time, possesses a quantity of
8 ammunition which may be used to discharge such rifle.

9 36. "Loaded shotgun" means any shotgun loaded with ammunition or any
10 shotgun which is possessed by one who, at the same time, possesses a
11 quantity of ammunition which may be used to discharge such shotgun.

12 § 4. The penal law is amended by adding six new sections 265.60,
13 265.65, 265.70, 265.75, 265.80 and 265.85 to read as follows:

14 § 265.60 Failure to store a weapon safely in the second degree.

15 A person is guilty of failure to store a weapon safely in the second
16 degree when he or she stores or otherwise leaves a weapon out of his or
17 her immediate possession or control without having first securely locked
18 such weapon in an appropriate locked box or rendered it incapable of
19 being fired by the use of a gun locking device appropriate to that weap-
20 on.

21 Failure to store a weapon safely in the second degree is a violation.

22 § 265.65 Failure to store a weapon safely in the first degree.

23 A person is guilty of failure to store a weapon safely in the first
24 degree when he or she commits the offense of failure to store a weapon
25 safely in the second degree as defined in section 265.60 of this article
26 and has been previously convicted of the offense of failure to store a
27 weapon safely in the second degree as defined in section 265.60 of this
28 article within the preceding five years.

29 Failure to store a weapon safely in the first degree is a class B
30 misdemeanor.

31 § 265.70 Aggravated failure to store a weapon safely.

32 A person is guilty of aggravated failure to store a weapon safely when
33 he or she commits the offense of failure to store a weapon safely in the
34 second degree as defined in section 265.60 of this article and such
35 weapon is removed from the premises or discharged by another person
36 under the age of eighteen.

37 Aggravated failure to store a weapon safely is a class A misdemeanor.

38 § 265.75 Criminally negligent storage of a weapon in the second degree.

39 1. A person is guilty of criminally negligent storage of a weapon in
40 the second degree when with criminal negligence, he or she stores or
41 leaves a loaded rifle, loaded shotgun or loaded firearm in any location
42 where such weapon is accessible to a person under the age of eighteen
43 and such weapon is discharged by such person under the age of eighteen,
44 which causes serious physical injury to such person under the age of
45 eighteen or any other person.

46 2. In any prosecution under this section it shall be an affirmative
47 defense that the defendant actively pursued all reasonable efforts to
48 retrieve or otherwise regain possession of such weapon prior to its
49 discharge.

50 3. The provisions of this section shall not apply if:

51 (a) such person under the age of eighteen gains access to such weapon
52 as a result of an unlawful entry to any premises by any person;

53 (b) such weapon is stored in a securely locked box which prevents
54 access to the weapon and any ammunition which may be used to discharge
55 such weapon is stored in a separate, securely locked box which prevents
56 access to such ammunition;

1 (c) such weapon is secured with a gun locking device which prevents
2 the weapon from discharging;

3 (d) such person under the age of eighteen possessed the loaded shotgun
4 or loaded rifle in compliance with a valid hunting license issued pursu-
5 ant to article eleven of the environmental conservation law;

6 (e) such weapon is in the possession or control of a police officer
7 while the officer is engaged in official duties; or

8 (f) such weapon is needed for the lawful purpose of self defense.

9 Criminally negligent storage of a weapon in the second degree is a
10 class E felony.

11 § 265.80 Criminally negligent storage of a weapon in the first degree.

12 1. A person is guilty of criminally negligent storage of a weapon in
13 the first degree when with criminal negligence, he or she stores or
14 leaves a loaded rifle, loaded shotgun or loaded firearm in any location
15 where such weapon is accessible to a person under the age of eighteen
16 and such weapon is discharged by such person under the age of eighteen,
17 which causes the death of such person under the age of eighteen or any
18 other person.

19 2. In any prosecution under this section it shall be an affirmative
20 defense that the defendant actively pursued all reasonable efforts to
21 retrieve or otherwise regain possession of such weapon prior to its
22 discharge.

23 3. The provisions of this section shall not apply if:

24 (a) such person under the age of eighteen gains access to such weapon
25 as a result of an unlawful entry to any premises by any person;

26 (b) such weapon is stored in a securely locked box which prevents
27 access to the weapon and any ammunition which may be used to discharge
28 such weapon is stored in a separate, securely locked box which prevents
29 access to the weapon;

30 (c) the weapon is secured with a gun locking device which prevents the
31 weapon from discharging;

32 (d) such person under the age of eighteen possessed the loaded shotgun
33 or loaded rifle in compliance with a valid hunting license issued pursu-
34 ant to article eleven of the environmental conservation law;

35 (e) such weapon is in the possession or control of a police officer
36 while the officer is engaged in official duties; or

37 (f) such weapon is needed for the lawful purpose of self defense.

38 Criminally negligent storage of a weapon in the first degree is a
39 class D felony.

40 § 265.85 Criminally negligent storage of a weapon in the first and
41 second degree; application.

42 If a person who is suspected of violating section 265.75 or 265.80 of
43 this article is the parent or guardian of a child who is injured or who
44 dies as the result of such violation, the district attorney shall
45 consider, among other factors, the impact of the injury or death on the
46 person who is suspected of violating section 265.75 or 265.80 of this
47 article when deciding whether or not to prosecute such person for such
48 offense.

49 § 5. The section heading and subdivision 2 of section 396-ee of the
50 general business law, the section heading as added by chapter 189 of the
51 laws of 2000 and subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 135 of the laws of
52 2019, are amended to read as follows:

53 Sale of certain weapons; locking devices and locked boxes therefor.

54 (2) Every person, firm or corporation engaged in the retail business
55 of selling rifles, shotguns or firearms, as such terms are defined in
56 section 265.00 of the penal law, shall, in the place where such rifles,

1 shotguns or firearms are displayed or transferred to the purchaser, post
2 a notice conspicuously stating in bold print that: "RESPONSIBLE FIREARM
3 STORAGE IS THE LAW IN NEW YORK STATE. RIFLES, SHOTGUNS AND FIREARMS MUST
4 EITHER BE STORED WITH A GUN LOCKING DEVICE OR IN A SAFE STORAGE DEPOSITORY
5 OR A LOCKED BOX OR NOT BE LEFT OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE POSSESSION AND
6 CONTROL OF THE OWNER OR OTHER LAWFUL POSSESSOR IF A CHILD RESIDES IN THE
7 HOME OR IS PRESENT, OR IF THE OWNER OR POSSESSOR RESIDES WITH A PERSON
8 PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING A RIFLE, SHOTGUN OR FIREARM UNDER STATE OR
9 FEDERAL LAW. RIFLES, SHOTGUNS AND FIREARMS SHOULD BE STORED UNLOADED AND
10 LOCKED IN A LOCATION SEPARATE FROM AMMUNITION. LEAVING RIFLES, SHOTGUNS
11 OR FIREARMS ACCESSIBLE TO A CHILD OR OTHER PROHIBITED PERSON MAY SUBJECT
12 YOU TO IMPRISONMENT, FINE, OR BOTH. LEAVING RIFLES, SHOTGUNS AND
13 FIREARMS ACCESSIBLE TO A PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE IS A CRIME
14 IN NEW YORK STATE." Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed to
15 affect, impair or supersede any special or local law relating to the
16 posting of notice regarding the safe storage of rifles, shotguns or
17 firearms.

18 § 6. Section 305 of the education law is amended by adding a new
19 subdivision 57 to read as follows:

20 57. The commissioner shall in cooperation with the division of criminal
21 justice services develop a weapons safety program designed to
22 protect children from the risk of gun-related death and injury. Such
23 program shall be designed to teach children to follow an effective safety
24 procedure when they are exposed to a gun, shall specifically warn
25 children that contact with guns can result in serious injury or death
26 and shall have been proven to be effective to prevent injury through
27 formal evaluation by objective public health and education profes-
28 sionals. Such program may be used in public and nonpublic schools at the
29 discretion of the local school board of education or board of trustees,
30 whichever is applicable. The commissioner shall submit an evaluation
31 report on this program to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the
32 temporary president of the senate, the chair of the assembly codes
33 committee and the chair of the senate codes committee no later than
34 January first, two thousand twenty-five.

35 § 7. Severability. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph,
36 section, or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent
37 jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or
38 invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation
39 to the words, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part
40 thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment
41 shall have been rendered.

42 § 8. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeeding
43 the date on which it shall have become a law, provided, however,
44 that sections three and four of this act shall take effect May 1, 2024;
45 provided, further, that section five of this act shall take effect March
46 1, 2024. Effective immediately the addition, amendment and/or repeal of
47 any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on
48 its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before
49 such effective date.