

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 485

Short Title: Destruction of Certain Firearms/Local Option. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators McKissick and Britt (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 3, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A COUNTY OR CITY TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE  
3 ALLOWING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF FIREARMS FOUND, RECEIVED,  
4 CONFISCATED, OR SEIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 153A-129 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 "(b1) A county may by ordinance allow the destruction of a firearm turned over to a law  
8 enforcement agency pursuant to G.S. 15-11.1(b)(4), 15-11.2(d)(1), or 14-269.1(4b)."

9 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 160A-189 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 160A-189. Firearms.**

11 (a) A city may by ordinance regulate, restrict, or prohibit the discharge of firearms at any  
12 time or place within the city except when used in defense of person or property or pursuant to  
13 lawful directions of law-enforcement officers, and may regulate the display of firearms on the  
14 streets, sidewalks, alleys, or other public property.

15 (b) A city may by ordinance allow the destruction of a firearm turned over to a law  
16 enforcement agency pursuant to G.S. 15-11.1(b)(4), 15-11.2(d)(1), or 14-269.1(4b).

17 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit a city's authority to take action under  
18 Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes."

19 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 15-11.1(b)(4) reads as rewritten:

20 "(4) By ordering the firearm turned over to a law enforcement agency in the county  
21 of trial for (i) the official use of the ~~agency or agency~~, (ii) sale, trade, or  
22 exchange by the agency to a federally licensed firearm dealer in accordance  
23 with all applicable State and federal firearm ~~laws~~, or (iii) destruction if  
24 the possessing law enforcement agency is located in a city that has adopted an  
25 ordinance pursuant to G.S. 160A-189 or is located in a county that has adopted  
26 an ordinance pursuant to G.S. 153A-129. The court may order a disposition  
27 of the firearm pursuant to this subdivision only if the firearm has a legible,  
28 unique identification number. If the law enforcement agency sells the firearm,  
29 then the proceeds of the sale shall be remitted to the appropriate county  
30 finance officer as provided by G.S. 115C-452 to be used to maintain free  
31 public schools. The receiving law enforcement agency shall maintain a record  
32 and inventory of all firearms received pursuant to this ~~subdivision~~subdivision  
33 and shall specify which firearms have been destroyed."

34 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 15-11.2(d)(1) reads as rewritten:

35 "(1) ~~By~~If the firearm will not be disposed of pursuant to subdivision (3) of this  
36 subsection, by having the firearm destroyed if (i) the firearm does not have a



1 legible, unique identification ~~number or number~~, (ii) the firearm is unsafe for  
2 use because of wear, damage, age, or ~~modification and will not be disposed of~~  
3 ~~pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection. modification~~, or (iii) the  
4 possessing law enforcement agency is located in a city that has adopted an  
5 ordinance pursuant to G.S. 160A-189 or is located in a county that has adopted  
6 an ordinance pursuant to G.S. 153A-129. The head or chief of the law  
7 enforcement agency shall maintain a record of the destruction of the firearm."

8 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 14-269.1(4b) reads as rewritten:

9 "(4b) By ordering the weapon turned over to a law enforcement agency in the county  
10 of trial for (i) the official use of the ~~agency or agency~~, (ii) sale, trade, or  
11 exchange by the agency to a federally licensed firearm dealer in accordance  
12 with all applicable State and federal firearm ~~laws. laws~~, or (iii) destruction if  
13 the weapon is a firearm and the possessing law enforcement agency is located  
14 in a city that has adopted an ordinance pursuant to G.S. 160A-189 or is located  
15 in a county that has adopted an ordinance pursuant to G.S. 153A-129. The  
16 court may order a disposition of the firearm pursuant to this subdivision only  
17 upon the written request of the head or chief of the law enforcement agency  
18 or a designee of the head or chief of the law enforcement agency and only if  
19 the firearm has a legible, unique identification number. If the law enforcement  
20 agency sells the firearm, then the proceeds of the sale shall be remitted to the  
21 appropriate county finance officer as provided by G.S. 115C-452 to be used  
22 to maintain free public schools. The receiving law enforcement agency shall  
23 maintain a record and inventory of all firearms received pursuant to this  
24 ~~subdivision. subdivision~~ and shall specify which firearms have been  
25 destroyed."

26 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2019, and applies to firearms  
27 seized, confiscated, received, or found on or after that date.