
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1964 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, DEAN, THOMAS, FRANKEL, V. BROWN,
SANTARSIERO, SCHLOSSBERG, M. DALEY, O'BRIEN, COHEN, KIM,
KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, BRIGGS, SIMS AND MAHONEY, APRIL 7, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 7, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous
3 articles, providing for safe storage of firearms; and
4 prescribing penalties.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 6143. Safe storage of firearms.

10 (a) Storage requirements.--A person who owns a firearm
11 shall:

12 (1) maintain the firearm in a securely locked box or
13 container; or

14 (2) secure the firearm with a trigger, chamber or cable
15 lock;

16 except when the person carries the firearm on his body or within
17 such close proximity to his body that the person reasonably
18 believes another person is unable to take possession of the

1 firearm unlawfully.

2 (b) Penalties.--A person who violates subsection (a)
3 commits:

4 (1) A summary offense, if the firearm is found
5 unsecured.

6 (2) A misdemeanor of the third degree, if the firearm is
7 found unsecured and loaded.

8 (3) A felony of the third degree, if any other person
9 takes possession of the firearm, the firearm is loaded and
10 the firearm is used to inflict injury or death upon any other
11 person.

12 (c) Defenses.--It shall be a defense to a prosecution under
13 this section if any of the following apply:

14 (1) The firearm was stored or left in a securely locked
15 box or container, in a location a reasonable person would
16 have believed to be secure or was securely locked with a
17 trigger lock.

18 (2) The firearm is obtained as a result of an unlawful
19 entry by any other person.

20 (3) For a violation of subsection (b) (3), the injury
21 results from a target or sport shooting accident or hunting
22 accident.

23 (4) Possession of the firearm is incidental to the
24 performance of the official duties of the United States Armed
25 Forces, the Pennsylvania National Guard or the personnel of
26 any Federal, State or local law enforcement agency.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.