

2016 -- H 7535

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Hull, Maldonado, and Abney

Date Introduced: February 10, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-47-33 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons"
2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-47-33. Possession of firearms by minors.** -- (a) It shall be unlawful within this state
4 for any person under eighteen (18) years of age to possess ~~and use~~ any firearm. ~~unless he or she~~
5 ~~shall hold a permit as provided in § 11-47-34, and unless the person is in the presence of a parent~~
6 ~~or guardian or supervising adult at any regular and recognized camp or rifle range approved by~~
7 ~~the Rhode Island state police or by the chief of police of the city or town in which the camp or~~
8 ~~rifle range is located; provided, that this provision shall not apply to minors engaged in lawful~~
9 ~~hunting activity under the supervision of a parent or guardian or qualified adult, minors~~
10 ~~participating in Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, ceremonial parade activities,~~
11 ~~competitive and target shooting, participants in state militia activities and minors participating in~~
12 ~~a basic firearms education program; provided, further, that a person under eighteen (18) years of~~
13 ~~age may carry a firearm, unloaded, in a suitable case to and from his or her home and the camp or~~
14 ~~range and from the camp or range to other camp or range when accompanied by a parent,~~
15 ~~guardian or supervising adult.~~

16 (b) This provision shall not apply to such persons that:

17 (1) Are in the presence of a parent or guardian or qualified adult at any regular and
18 recognized shooting range or any range where the firearm may lawfully be shot;

19 (2) Are engaged in lawful hunting activity as provided in §20-13-5;

1 (3) Are participating in competitive or target shooting when accompanied by a parent,
2 guardian or qualified adult; or

3 (4) Are participating in Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, ceremonial parade
4 activities, participants in state militia activities or minors participating in a basic firearms
5 education program.

6 (c) When accompanied by a parent, guardian or qualified adult, a person under eighteen
7 (18) years of age may transport a firearm, unloaded and encased in a hard-sided or soft-sided,
8 locked case to and from their home and the range and from the range to another range; or to and
9 from their home when the firearm is being lawfully purchased or being repaired; or to and from
10 all the activities exempted in subsection (b) of this section.

11 ~~(b)~~(d) For purposes of this section only, "qualified adult" means any person ~~twenty-one~~
12 ~~(21)~~ eighteen (18) years of age or older and permitted by law to possess and use the firearm in
13 question.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would criminalize the mere possession of a firearm by a minor, but would
2 provide for limited exceptions while the minor is in the presence of a qualified adult or
3 participating in certain competitive or ceremonial events.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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