

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Senator Harold M. Metts

Date Introduced: March 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate 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.**

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

16 (b) The provision contained in subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to such
17 persons that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 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 and 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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