

SENATE BILL 2287

By Oliver

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 17, Part 13, relative to firearms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A person commits an offense who knowingly or recklessly:

(1) Permits a child under twelve (12) years of age to have access to or possession of, custody of, or use in any manner a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; or

(2) Sells, loans, or makes a gift of a firearm to a minor under eighteen (18) years of age or an individual who is ineligible to purchase or possess a firearm.

(b) It is a defense to prosecution under subsection (a) that:

(1) The person has the permission of the child's parent or guardian, and the child is under the supervision of an adult;

(2) The firearm was used for the purpose of hunting, trapping, fishing, camping, sport shooting, or any other lawful sporting activity; and

(3) For a violation of subdivision (a)(2), the person is not required to obtain a license under § 39-17-1316.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) A person who fails to comply with this section is civilly liable for any injury or death that is proximately caused by the person's failure, regardless of whether the person was negligent in the failure to comply.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1303, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(1) and subsection (b).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1320(c), is amended by deleting the language "Class A misdemeanor" and substituting instead the language "Class E felony".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1316(c), is amended by adding the following new subdivision:

( ) Inform the purchaser in writing of the requirements of Section 1 and that a violation of such requirements may subject the person to a Class A misdemeanor and civil liability.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.