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H.566

Introduced by Representatives Cole of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski,
Donovan of Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Krowinski of
Burlington, McCormack of Burlington, O’Sullivan of
Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington,
Ram of Burlington, Sullivan of Burlington, and Wright of
Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; City of Burlington;
amendment; firearms; safe storage depository; locking device

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve an
amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington that would require that
when a firearm is not in a person’s immediate possession or control, it must be
locked in a safe storage depository or, by using a locking device, rendered
incapable of being fired.

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of
Burlington requiring firearms to be locked in safe storage depositories or
placed in locking devices

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

3 The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the City
4 of Burlington as set forth in this act. Proposals of amendment were approved
5 by the voters on March 4, 2014.

6 Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 3 is amended to read:

7 CHAPTER 3. CITY OF BURLINGTON

8 * * *

9 ARTICLE 99. GENERAL WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS

10 §§ 511–512. [Reserved.]

11 § 513. SAFE STORAGE

12 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §§ 2291(8) and 2295, the
13 City of Burlington is authorized to regulate the possession and carrying of
14 firearms as set forth in this section.

15 (b) Within the City of Burlington, a person who possesses a firearm, as
16 defined in 13 V.S.A. § 4016, shall not store or otherwise leave the firearm
17 outside his or her immediate possession or control without having first securely
18 locked the firearm in an appropriate safe storage depository or, by use of a gun
19 locking device appropriate to that weapon, rendered it incapable of being fired.

20 (c) As used in this section, “safe storage depository” shall mean a safe or
21 other secure container which, when locked, is incapable of being opened

1 without the key, combination, or other unlocking mechanism so as to prevent
2 an unauthorized person from obtaining access to the weapon.

3 (d) The penalties for any violation of this section shall be as follows:

4 (1) a criminal offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$2,500.00
5 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both; or

6 (2) a civil ordinance violation punishable by a fine of not less than
7 \$200.00 and not more than \$500.00.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.