

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 643  
Apr 1, 2025  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30283-ML-114

Short Title: Clarify Firearm Storage Law. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Rubin.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THAT THE LAW REQUIRING THE STORAGE OF FIREARMS TO  
3 PROTECT MINORS APPLIES TO FIREARMS THAT ARE LOADED AND  
4 UNLOADED.

5 Whereas, in *State v. Cable*, No. COA23-192 (2024), our Court of Appeals held that  
6 our criminal statute requiring safe storage of firearms around minors, G.S. 14-315.1, was  
7 ambiguous; and

8 Whereas, in that case, the Court declined to consider a firearm to be "in a condition  
9 that the firearm can be discharged" when it was stored unloaded and sitting next to ammunition;  
10 and

11 Whereas, in that case, a 16-year-old spending the night at a friend's house found the  
12 firearm and ammunition, loaded the firearm, and accidentally killed himself; and

13 Whereas, G.S. 14-315.1 already requires, for it to be criminal conduct, that the firearm  
14 be used in a harmful way—such as causing injury or committing a crime; and

15 Whereas, storing a firearm next to ammunition and accessible to minors is the sort of  
16 conduct that, when it leads to harm, is plainly within the dangerous conduct the statute is intended  
17 to reach; Now, therefore,

18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

19 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 14-315.1 reads as rewritten:

20 "**§ 14-315.1. Storage of firearms to protect minors.**

21 (a) Any person who resides in the same premises as a minor, owns or possesses a firearm,  
22 and stores or leaves the firearm ~~(i) in a condition that the firearm can be discharged and (ii) in a~~  
23 manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to  
24 gain access to the firearm, is guilty of a Class ~~4~~A1 misdemeanor if a minor gains access to the  
25 firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or a person having charge of the  
26 minor and the ~~minor~~minor does any of the following:

27 (1) Possesses it in violation of ~~G.S. 14-269.2(b);~~G.S. 14-269.2(b).

28 (2) Exhibits it in a public place in a careless, angry, or threatening  
29 ~~manner;~~manner.

30 (3) Causes personal injury or death with it not in self ~~defense;~~or defense.

31 (4) Uses it in the commission of a crime.

32 ...."

33 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses  
34 committed on or after that date.



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