

2015 -- H 5868

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LC001051
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Ajello, Maldonado, and Almeida

Date Introduced: March 12, 2015

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 section 11-47-34, and unless the person is in the presence of a~~
6 ~~parent or guardian or supervising adult at any regular and recognized camp or rifle range~~
7 ~~approved by the Rhode Island state police or by the chief of police of the city or town in which~~
8 ~~the camp or rifle range is located; provided, that this provision shall not apply to minors engaged~~
9 ~~in lawful 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 any 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 his or her home and the range, and from the range to another range, or to
9 and from his or her home when the firearm is being lawfully purchased or repaired, or to and
10 from 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
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1 This act would criminalize the mere possession of a firearm by a minor. This act would
2 further 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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