

March 18, 2009

S 664. SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS. Filed 3/18/09. *TO PROVIDE STRICTER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STORAGE OF FIREARMS TO PROTECT MINORS.*

Amends GS 14-315.1 to provide that any person (was, any person who resides in the same premises as a minor and owns or possesses a firearm) who stores or leaves a firearm in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm (was, *and* stores or leaves a firearm in a condition that the firearm can be discharged) is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if a minor gains access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or a person having charge of the minor and the minor (1) possesses it in violation of GS 14-269.2(b) *or* (2) exhibits it in a public place. Makes it a Class A1 misdemeanor (was, Class 1 misdemeanor) for any person who stores or leaves a firearm in a manner that the person knew or should have known that a minor would be able to gain access to the firearm if a minor gains access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or a person having charge of the minor and the minor (1) uses the firearm to cause personal injury or death, not in self-defense, or (2) uses the firearm in commission of a crime. Specifies that subsections (a) and (a1) do not apply if (1) the firearm is kept unloaded in a locked box or container, with the ammunition stored separately or (2) the firearm is kept unloaded and equipped with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock or other safety device properly engaged so as to render the weapon inoperable by any person other than the owner or other authorized user. Effective for offenses committed on or after December 1, 2009.

Intro. by Graham.

GS 14