

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 894
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40482-MH-115

Short Title: Gun Dealer Door Lock Exemption.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Adams.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE DOOR LOCK EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN FIREARMS
3 BUSINESSES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** Definitions. – As used in this section, "Council" means the State
6 Building Code Council, "Code" means the current North Carolina State Building Code collection
7 and amendments to the Code, as adopted by the Council, "door lock requirements" means the
8 door lock requirements of the means of egress provisions of the Code, and "local inspection
9 department" means the entity in charge of fire code enforcement for a unit of local government.

10 **SECTION 1.(b)** Rulemaking. – The Council shall adopt rules to amend the Code to
11 provide an exemption from the door lock requirements for business entities licensed to sell
12 firearms as a federal firearms dealer that are primarily engaged in the business of selling firearms
13 or ammunition when issued a permit to that effect by the local fire code official. In amending
14 rules pursuant to this subsection, the Council shall ensure that the exemption from the door lock
15 requirements is applicable only during nonbusiness hours when the business is closed to the
16 public. Until the effective date of the rules to amend the Code that the Council is required to
17 adopt pursuant to this section, the Council and local governments enforcing the Code shall follow
18 the provisions of subsection (c) of this section as they relate to compliance with the door lock
19 requirements of the means of egress provisions of the Code.

20 **SECTION 1.(c)** Exemption Requirements. – The fire code official shall issue a
21 permit to a business entity licensed to sell firearms as a federal firearms dealer that is primarily
22 engaged in the business of selling firearms or ammunition providing an exemption from the door
23 lock requirements as set forth in this subsection:

24 (1) The business entity must pay a permit fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to
25 the local inspection department and meet the following requirements:

- 26 a. The business has a sales floor and customer occupancy space that is
27 contained on one floor and is no larger than 15,000 square feet of retail
28 sales space. For purposes of this sub-subdivision, retail sales space is
29 that area where firearms or ammunition are displayed and
30 merchandised for sale to the public.
31 b. The business is equipped with an approved smoke, fire, and break-in
32 alarm system installed and operated in accordance with the
33 requirements of the fire code official. An approved smoke, fire, or
34 break-in alarm system does not have to include an automatic door
35 unlocking mechanism triggered when the smoke, fire, or break-in
36 alarm system is triggered.



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- 1 c. The owner or operator of the business provides to all employees within
- 2 the later of (i) 10 days of the issuance of the permit under this section
- 3 or, (ii) at the time the employee is hired, a written facility locking plan
- 4 applicable for the close of business each day.
- 5 d. Each entrance to the business is posted with a sign conspicuously
- 6 located that warns that the building is exempt from the door lock
- 7 requirements of the North Carolina State Building Code during
- 8 nonbusiness hours only and that doors will remain locked from the
- 9 inside even in the case of fire.
- 10 (2) The local inspection department shall file copies of permits issued pursuant to
- 11 this section with all local law enforcement and fire protection agencies that
- 12 provide protection for the business entity.
- 13 (3) The local inspection department shall be responsible for any inspections
- 14 necessary for the issuance of permits under this section and shall be
- 15 responsible for periodic inspections to ensure compliance with the
- 16 requirements of this section.
- 17 (4) The local inspection department shall revoke a permit issued under this section
- 18 upon a finding that the requirements for the original issuance of the permit are
- 19 not being complied with or upon a finding that the business entity has failed
- 20 to limit its use of the exemption from the door lock requirements of the means
- 21 of egress provisions of the Code to nonbusiness hours when the business is
- 22 closed to the public.

23 **SECTION 1.(d)** Sunset. – Subsection (c) of this section expires when the permanent

24 rules adopted as required by subsection (b) of this section become effective.

25 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.