

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2244 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, SHUSTERMAN, FRANKEL, McNEILL, BRENNAN, ISAACSON, RIVERA, VENKAT, CURRY, MADDEN, HANBIDGE, DONAHUE, HOHENSTEIN, POWELL, GUENST, SANCHEZ, KINKEAD, OTTEN, FREEMAN, INGLIS, BOROWSKI, SCHLOSSBERG AND PROBST, JUNE 2, 2026

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 8, 2026

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania~~ <--
2 ~~Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous~~
3 ~~articles, providing for the offense of unauthorized access to~~
4 ~~firearms.~~

5 AMENDING THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971 (P.L.6, NO.2), KNOWN AS THE <--
6 TAX REFORM CODE OF 1971, IN SALES AND USE TAX, FURTHER
7 PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSIONS FROM TAX.

8 AMENDING TITLE 18 (CRIMES AND OFFENSES) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
9 CONSOLIDATED STATUTES, IN FIREARMS AND OTHER DANGEROUS
10 ARTICLES, PROVIDING FOR THE OFFENSE OF UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO
11 FIREARMS.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 ~~Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated~~ <--
15 ~~Statutes is amended to read:~~

16 SECTION 1. SECTION 204 OF THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971 (P.L.6, <--
17 NO.2), KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM CODE OF 1971, IS AMENDED BY
18 ADDING A CLAUSE TO READ:

19 SECTION 204. EXCLUSIONS FROM TAX.--THE TAX IMPOSED BY
20 SECTION 202 SHALL NOT BE IMPOSED UPON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

21 \* \* \*

1 (77) THE SALE AT RETAIL OR USE OF A GUN SAFE OR GUN LOCK.  
2 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS CLAUSE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND PHRASES  
3 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

4 "GUN LOCK" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS THE TERM "LOCKING  
5 DEVICE" AS DEFINED IN 18 PA.C.S. § 6142(F) (RELATING TO LOCKING  
6 DEVICE FOR FIREARMS).

7 "GUN SAFE" MEANS A SELF-CONTAINED ENCLOSURE SPECIFICALLY  
8 DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURELY STORING A  
9 FIREARM AND EQUIPPED WITH A PADLOCK, KEY LOCK, COMBINATION LOCK,  
10 KEYPAD, ELECTRONIC KEYPAD, BIOMETRIC SCANNER OR SIMILAR  
11 MECHANISM THAT, WHEN PROPERLY LOCKED, PREVENTS UNAUTHORIZED  
12 ACCESS TO THE FIREARM. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE A GUN CABINET.

13 SECTION 2. TITLE 18 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED  
14 STATUTES IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:  
15 § 6143. Unauthorized access to firearms.

16 (a) Secure storage required.--A possessor of a firearm shall  
17 ensure that the firearm is securely stored when not in use. For  
18 the purpose of this subsection, a firearm is considered to be  
19 securely stored when not in use if the firearm is carried by the  
20 possessor or within close proximity to the possessor so that the  
21 possessor can readily retrieve the firearm and prevent  
22 unauthorized users from gaining access to the firearm as if the  
23 possessor carried the firearm.

24 (b) Grading.--A violation of subsection (a) shall be graded  
25 as follows:

26 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), a summary  
27 offense with no term of imprisonment.

28 (2) For a person who knew or should have reasonably  
29 known that a minor or unauthorized user was present or likely  
30 to be present in the area where the firearm was left

1 unsecured, a misdemeanor of the third degree.

2 (c) Civil liability.--A person whose act or omission  
3 constitutes a violation of subsection (a), regardless of whether  
4 there has been a criminal prosecution, shall be strictly liable  
5 for damages in any civil action in which a party claims bodily  
6 injury or property damage resulting from the possession or use  
7 of the person's unsecured firearm.

8 (d) Affirmative defense.--It is an affirmative defense to  
9 criminal prosecution and civil liability under this section if a  
10 minor or unauthorized user gained possession of the firearm as a  
11 result of an unlawful entry by a person or through a lawful act  
12 of self-defense.

13 (e) Notice by retailer.--

14 (1) A person who offers for sale at retail a firearm  
15 shall post in a conspicuous place and at all times display in  
16 block letters not less than three inches in height the  
17 following notice:

18 Unless lawfully carried on your person, you are  
19 required by law to securely store your firearm(s). A  
20 failure to securely store your firearm(s) may result  
21 in criminal or civil liability.

22 (2) A violation of this subsection constitutes a  
23 misdemeanor of the third degree.

24 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
25 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
26 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

27 "Firearm." As defined under section 908(c) (relating to  
28 prohibited offensive weapons).

29 "Gun safe." A self-contained enclosure specifically designed  
30 and manufactured for the purpose of securely storing a firearm

1 and equipped with a padlock, key lock, combination lock, keypad,  
2 electronic keypad, biometric scanner or similar mechanism that,  
3 when properly locked, prevents unauthorized access to the  
4 firearm. The term does not include a gun cabinet.

5 "Locking device." As defined under section 6142(f) (relating  
6 to locking device for firearms).

7 "Minor." An individual under 18 years of age.

8 "Securely store." Provided that the key or combination, if  
9 any, are kept separately from the gun safe or locking device,  
10 either of the following:

11 (1) storing a firearm in a properly locked gun safe; or

12 (2) storing a firearm out of plain sight with a properly  
13 engaged locking device.

14 "Unauthorized user." A person who is ineligible to purchase  
15 or possess a firearm under Federal law or section 6105 (relating  
16 to persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or  
17 transfer firearms) or to whom the owner has not expressly  
18 granted permission to use the firearm.

19 Section 2 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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