



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 7218**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN THE HOME AND FIREARM SAFETY PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-37i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 No person shall store or keep any [loaded] firearm, as defined in  
4 section 53a-3, on any premises under such person's control if such  
5 person knows or reasonably should know that (1) a minor is likely to  
6 gain access to the firearm without the permission of the parent or  
7 guardian of the minor, (2) a resident of the premises is ineligible to  
8 possess a firearm under state or federal law, or (3) a resident of the  
9 premises poses a risk of imminent personal injury to himself or herself  
10 or to other individuals, unless such person (A) keeps the firearm in a  
11 securely locked box or other container or in a [location] manner which  
12 a reasonable person would believe to be secure, or (B) carries the  
13 firearm on his or her person or within such close proximity thereto that  
14 such person can readily retrieve and use the firearm as if such person  
15 carried the firearm on his or her person. For the purposes of this  
16 section, "minor" means any person under the age of [sixteen] eighteen  
17 years.

18 Sec. 2. Section 52-571g of the general statutes is repealed and the

19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

20 Any person whose act or omission constitutes a violation of section  
21 29-37i, as amended by this act, shall be strictly liable for damages when  
22 a minor or, a resident of the premises who is ineligible to possess a  
23 firearm under state or federal law or who poses a risk of imminent  
24 personal injury to himself or herself or to other individuals, obtains a  
25 firearm, as defined in section 53a-3, and causes the injury or death of  
26 such minor, resident or any other person. For the purposes of this  
27 section, "minor" means any person under the age of [sixteen] eighteen  
28 years.

29 Sec. 3. Section 53a-217a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
30 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

31 (a) A person is guilty of criminally negligent storage of a firearm  
32 when such person violates the provisions of section 29-37i, as amended  
33 by this act, and a minor or, a resident of the premises who is ineligible  
34 to possess a firearm under state or federal law or who poses a risk of  
35 imminent personal injury to himself or herself or to other individuals,  
36 obtains the firearm and causes the injury or death of such minor,  
37 resident or any other person. For the purposes of this section, "minor"  
38 means any person under the age of [sixteen] eighteen years.

39 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the minor obtains  
40 the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry to any premises by any  
41 person.

42 (c) Criminally negligent storage of a firearm is a class D felony.

43 Sec. 4. Section 10-18b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
44 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

45 The State Board of Education, within available appropriations, [and  
46 the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association may] shall develop  
47 [curriculum] guides to aid local and regional boards of education in  
48 developing firearm safety programs for students in grades

49 kindergarten to [eight] twelve, inclusive, in the public schools. The  
50 State Board of Education may consult with the Connecticut Police  
51 Chiefs Association when developing such guides. The State Board of  
52 Education shall make such [curriculum] guides available to local and  
53 regional boards of education.

54 Sec. 5. Section 10-18c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
55 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

56 (a) Any local or regional board of education may offer firearm safety  
57 programs to students in grades kindergarten to [eight] twelve,  
58 inclusive, in the public schools under its jurisdiction.

59 (b) No student shall be required by any local or regional board of  
60 education to participate in a firearm safety program which may be  
61 offered within the public schools. A written notification to the local or  
62 regional board by the student's parent or legal guardian shall be  
63 sufficient to exempt the student from such program in its entirety or  
64 from any portion thereof so specified by the parent or legal guardian.

65 (c) If a student is exempted from a firearm safety program pursuant  
66 to subsection (b) of this section, the local or regional board of  
67 education shall provide, during the period of time in which the  
68 student would otherwise be participating in such program, an  
69 opportunity for other study or academic work.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	29-37i
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	52-571g
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	53a-217a
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-18b
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-18c

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*