
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
AND INGLIS, JUNE 2, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 3, 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 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 6143. Unauthorized access to firearms.

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

18 (b) Grading.--A violation of subsection (a) shall be graded

1 as follows:

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

4 (2) For a person who knew or should have reasonably
5 known that a minor or unauthorized user was present or likely
6 to be present in the area where the firearm was left
7 unsecured, a misdemeanor of the third degree.

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

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

19 (e) Notice by retailer.--

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

24 Unless lawfully carried on your person, you are
25 required by law to securely store your firearm(s). A
26 failure to securely store your firearm(s) may result
27 in criminal or civil liability.

28 (2) A violation of this subsection constitutes a
29 misdemeanor of the third degree.

30 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following

1 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
2 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

5 "Gun safe." A self-contained enclosure specifically designed
6 and manufactured for the purpose of securely storing a firearm
7 and equipped with a padlock, key lock, combination lock, keypad,
8 electronic keypad, biometric scanner or similar mechanism that,
9 when properly locked, prevents unauthorized access to the
10 firearm. The term does not include a gun cabinet.

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

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

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

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

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

20 "Unauthorized user." A person who is ineligible to purchase
21 or possess a firearm under Federal law or section 6105 (relating
22 to persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or
23 transfer firearms) or to whom the owner has not expressly
24 granted permission to use the firearm.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.