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A bill to be entitled An act relating to weapons and firearms; creating the "Children's Firearm Responsibility Act of 2001"; amending s. 790.001, F.S.; defining "unsafe handgun"; creating s. 790.0659, F.S.; prohibiting the manufacture and importation of unsafe handguns; providing exceptions; providing a penalty; amending s. 790.17, F.S.; prohibiting the furnishing of unsafe handguns to minors under 18 years of age; providing penalties; amending s. 784.05, F.S., relating to culpable negligence; providing a fine and additional penalties for persons convicted of leaving a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of a minor under certain circumstances; amending s. 790.174, F.S., relating to required safe storage of firearms; providing applicability to firearms stored or left within the interior of a motor vehicle; providing a penalty for failure to store or leave a firearm as required by law under certain circumstances; creating s. 985.4167, F.S.; establishing the juvenile gun violence prevention grant program; providing criteria; providing for administration of the program by the Department of Juvenile Justice; providing for a grant application process; requiring annual evaluation reports of entities receiving grant awards; providing for audit; amending s. 985.415, F.S., relating to the community juvenile justice partnership grant

1 program; revising provisions to include 2 community juvenile gun violence grants within 3 the program; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date. 4 5 6 WHEREAS, it is the expressed finding of the Legislature 7 under s. 790.173, Florida Statutes, that "a tragically large 8 number of Florida children have been accidently killed or 9 seriously wounded by negligently stored firearms," and 10 WHEREAS, it is the further finding of the Legislature 11 under s. 790.173, Florida Statutes, that "placing firearms within the reach or easy access of children is irresponsible, 12 13 encourages such accidents, and should be prohibited; and that 14 legislative action is necessary to protect the safety of our children, " and 15 WHEREAS, the alarming increase in the incidence of 16 school shootings across the United States which have resulted 17 in death and serious injury to public school students, 18 teachers, and staff make the issue of juvenile gun violence 19 20 one of extreme importance to the citizens of the State of Florida, NOW, THEREFORE, 21 22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 23 24 25 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. -- This act may be cited as the 26 "Children's Firearm Responsibility Act of 2001." 27 Section 2. Subsection (19) is added to section

790.001 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, except

790.001, Florida Statutes, to read:

where the context otherwise requires:

(19)

"Unsafe handqun" means:

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	(a)	Any har	ndgun w	hich,	when	new,	fire	s in a	ny o	E fi	ve
succes	sive	trials	in whi	ch the	e hand	dgun,	when	loade	d wit	ch ar	<u>n</u>
empty	case	with a	primer	inst	alled	and	having	g buil	t-in	manı	ual
handgun safety devices deactivated so that the handgun is											
ready	to f	ire, is	droppe	d onto	o a s	teel	plate	from	a he:	ight	of
1 meter from each of the following positions:											
	1.	Normal	firing	posi	tion.						
	2.	Upside	down.								
	3.	On the	grip.								
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·									

4. On the muzzle.

- 5. On either side.
- 6. On the exposed hammer or striker.
- $extstyle{7.}$  If there is no hammer or striker, the rearmost part of the firearm.
- 8. Any other position necessary to determine whether the handgun is subject to accidental discharge.
- (b) Any handgun without a child-resistant trigger mechanism reasonably designed to prevent a child who has not attained 5 years of age from operating the weapon when it is ready to fire. Such mechanism may include:
- 1. Any handgun with a trigger resistance equivalent to a 10-pound pull; or
- 2. Any handgun which is designed so that the hand of an average child who has not attained 5 years of age is unable to grip the trigger.
- (c) Any semiautomatic pistol which does not have a magazine disconnect safety that prevents the pistol from being fired once the magazine or clip is removed from the weapon.
- 29 (d) A handgun sold without a mechanism or feature
  30 reasonably designed to prevent the discharge of the weapon by
  31 unauthorized users, including, but not limited to:

- 1. A detachable key-activated or combination lock which prevents the trigger from being pulled or the hammer from striking the primer;
- 2. A solenoid use-limitation device which prevents, by use of a magnetically activated relay, the firing of the handgun unless a magnet of the appropriate strength is placed in proximity to the handle of the handgun; or
  - 3. A removable hammer or striker.

Section 3. Section 790.0659, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

790.0659 Manufacture and importation of unsafe handguns prohibited.--

- (1) No licensed manufacturer or licensed importer shall manufacture within the state or import into the state any handgun that has been determined, upon testing and evaluation by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, or an agency or entity authorized by the bureau or the department to test and evaluate the safety of firearms, to be an unsafe handgun as defined in s. 790.001(19).
  - (2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to:
- (a) The manufacture or importation of a handgun by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer for use by a department or agency of the Federal Government, or a sheriff's office, municipal police department, correctional facility or agency, or other criminal justice or governmental agency of the state, when the manufacture or importation is on behalf of such agencies, entities, or departments for official law enforcement purposes; or
- (b) The manufacture or importation of a handgun by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer for the purposes of

lawful testing, evaluation, or experimentation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, or any agency or entity authorized by the bureau or department to test and evaluate the safety of firearms.

(3) Any licensed manufacturer or licensed importer who violates the provisions of this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 4. Section 790.17, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

790.17 Furnishing weapons to minors under 18 years of age or persons of unsound mind and furnishing firearms or unsafe handguns to minors under 18 years of age prohibited; penalties.--

- (1) A person who sells, hires, barters, lends, transfers, or gives any minor under 18 years of age any dirk, electric weapon or device, or other weapon, other than an ordinary pocketknife, without permission of the minor's parent or guardian, or sells, hires, barters, lends, transfers, or gives to any person of unsound mind an electric weapon or device or any dangerous weapon, other than an ordinary pocketknife, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (2)(a) A person may not knowingly or willfully sell or transfer a firearm to a minor under 18 years of age, except that a person may transfer ownership of a firearm other than an unsafe handgun as defined in s. 790.001(19) to a minor with permission of the parent or guardian. A person who violates this paragraph commits a felony of the third degree,

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punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- The parent or guardian must maintain possession of the firearm except pursuant to s. 790.22.
- (3) A person who sells, hires, barters, lends, transfers, or gives any minor under 18 years of age any unsafe handgun as defined in s. 790.001(19) commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (4) A person who sells, hires, barters, lends, transfers, or gives any minor under 18 years of age any unsafe handgun as defined in s. 790.001(19), the possession of which results in the death or bodily injury of the minor or any other person, commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 5. Section 784.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

784.05 Culpable negligence.--

- (1) Whoever, through culpable negligence, exposes another person to personal injury commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- Whoever, through culpable negligence, inflicts actual personal injury on another commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
- (3) Whoever violates subsection (1) by storing or leaving a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of a minor commits, if the minor obtains the firearm and uses it to inflict injury or death upon himself or herself or any other 31 person, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided

in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. A person convicted of a violation of this subsection shall, in addition to any criminal penalty, be fined not more than \$10,000 and shall also be ordered by the sentencing judge to make restitution to the victim of such offense and to perform up to 200 hours of community service work. However, this subsection does not apply:

- (a) If the firearm was stored or left in a securely locked box or container or in a location which a reasonable person would have believed to be secure, or was securely locked with a trigger lock;
- (b) If the minor obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry by any person;
- (c) To injuries resulting from target or sport shooting accidents or hunting accidents; or
- (d) To members of the Armed Forces, National Guard, or State Militia, or to police or other law enforcement officers, with respect to firearm possession by a minor which occurs during or incidental to the performance of their official duties.

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When any minor child is accidentally shot by another family member, no arrest shall be made pursuant to this subsection prior to 7 days after the date of the shooting. With respect to any parent or guardian of any deceased minor, the investigating officers shall file all findings and evidence with the state attorney's office with respect to violations of this subsection. The state attorney shall evaluate such evidence and shall take such action as he or she deems appropriate under the circumstances and may file an 31 information against the appropriate parties.

(4) As used in this act, the term "minor" means any person under the age of 16.

Section 6. Section 790.174, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

790.174 Safe storage of firearms required.--

- (1) A person who stores or leaves, on a premise under his or her control or within the interior of a motor vehicle owned or operated by such person, a loaded firearm, as defined in s. 790.001, and who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parent or the person having charge of the minor, or without the supervision required by law, shall keep the firearm in a securely locked box or container or in a location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure or shall secure it with a trigger lock, except when the person is carrying the firearm on his or her body or within such close proximity thereto that he or she can retrieve and use it as easily and quickly as if he or she carried it on his or her body.
- (2)(a) It is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, if a person violates subsection (1) by failing to store or leave a firearm in the required manner and as a result thereof a minor gains access to the firearm, without the lawful permission of the minor's parent or the person having charge of the minor, and possesses or exhibits it, without the supervision required by law:

1.(a) In a public place; or

 $\frac{2.(b)}{}$  In a rude, careless, angry, or threatening manner in violation of s. 790.10.

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(b) It is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if a person violates subsection (1) by failing to store or leave a firearm in the required manner and as a result thereof a minor gains access to the firearm, without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or the person having charge of the minor, and uses it to inflict injury or death upon himself or herself or any other person. A person convicted of a violation of this paragraph shall, in addition to any criminal penalty, be fined not more than \$10,000 and shall also be ordered by the sentencing judge to make restitution to the victim and to perform up to 200 hours of community service work. This subsection does not apply if the minor obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry by any person. (3) As used in this act, the term "minor" means any

person under the age of 16. Section 7. Section 985.4167, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

985.4167 Community juvenile gun violence prevention grants.--

- (1) GRANTS; CRITERIA.--
- (a) The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and the Task Force on School Safety, in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Justice, are authorized to develop a grant application process for the award of community juvenile gun violence prevention grants which may be awarded as part of the community juvenile justice partnership grant program under s. 985.415. Juvenile gun violence prevention grants may be awarded for programs which assist local school authorities, 31 | law enforcement agencies, and community groups in educating

children about preventing juvenile gun violence and which assist communities in developing partnerships between local school authorities, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and parents in educating children about preventing juvenile gun violence. The Department of Juvenile Justice shall administer the program in accordance with the requirements of this section and s. 985.415.

- (b) In addition to the minimum requirements provided in s. 985.415(1)(b), in awarding community juvenile gun violence prevention grants, the department shall give priority to applications that:
- 1. Provide for the reduction or prevention of juvenile gun violence within the public school system.
- 2. Target public schools with a high incidence of juvenile gun violence or a high incidence of weapons, firearms, or destructive devices being brought onto public school campuses.
- (c) In addition to the requirements of s.

  985.415(1)(c), in awarding grants under this section, the

  department may consider the extent to which a proposed program or project:
- 1. Educates children about the effects of gun violence, which shall include:
- <u>a. Educating children to identify dangerous situations</u> <u>in which guns are involved and how to avoid and prevent such</u> <u>situations.</u>
- b. How to identify threats and other indications that a peer is in possession of a gun and may use a gun, and what steps to take in such situations.

- c. The development of programs which give children access to adults to whom they can report in a confidential manner about problems relating to guns.
- 2. Improves security on public elementary school, middle school, and high school campuses in a manner that will prevent students and nonstudents from entering school grounds with weapons or firearms.
- 3. Encourages and develops schoolwide programs and partnerships that involve teachers, students, parents, administrators, other staff, and members of the community in reducing incidents involving weapons, firearms, or destructive devices in public schools.
- 4. Establishes programs that assist parents in helping to educate their children about gun safety and the prevention of gun violence.
- 5. Provides ongoing professional development for public school staff and administrators to identify the causes and effects of gun violence, and risk factors and student behavior that may result in gun violence.
- 6. Provides technical assistance for school psychologists and counselors which will enable timely counseling and evaluations, in accordance with state and local laws, of students who possess a weapon on school grounds and of victims of juvenile gun violence.
- 7. Assists public schools and communities in reviewing and updating crisis response plans with respect to the discovery of weapons, firearms, or destructive devices on a school campus or an incident of juvenile gun violence, or assists public schools and communities in developing crisis response plans where none currently exist.

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under s. 985.415(2).

state, and local programs that educate children about personal health, safety, and responsibility, including programs carried out under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.). 9. Serves a population with a high incidence of public school students found in possession of a weapon or destructive device on school property, or students suspended or expelled for bringing a weapon or destructive device onto school grounds. 10. Establishes a partnership composed of not less than one representative from each of the following: a. A local school authority. b. A public or private nonprofit agency or organization with experience in violence prevention. c. A local law enforcement agency. (2) GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES. --(a) Grants awarded under this section shall comply with all requirements of s. 985.415. Each entity wishing to apply for an annual community juvenile gun violence prevention grant, which may be renewed for a maximum of 2 additional

8. Supports or is coordinated with other federal,

(b) In addition to the requirements of s.

985.415(2)(b), the department shall give priority for
selection to those school districts with the highest incidence
of juvenile gun-related violence and the highest incidence of

years for the same provision of services, shall submit a grant

proposal for funding or continued funding to the department.

procedures. In order to be considered for funding, the grant

proposal shall include the assurances and information required

The department shall establish the grant application

 students bringing a weapon, firearm, or destructive device onto the grounds of a public school.

- (c) The department shall make available, to anyone wishing to apply for a community juvenile gun violence prevention grant, information on all of the criteria to be used in the selection of the proposals for funding pursuant to the provisions of this subsection and s. 985.415.
- (d) The department shall review all program proposals submitted. Entities submitting proposals shall be notified of approval not later than June 30 of each year.
- (e) Each entity that is awarded a grant as provided for in this section shall submit an annual evaluation report to the department, the district juvenile justice manager, the district juvenile justice board, and the county juvenile justice council, by a date subsequent to the end of the contract period established by the department, documenting the extent to which the program objectives have been met, the effect of the program on reducing the incidence of juvenile gun violence, and any other information required by the department. The department shall coordinate and incorporate all such annual evaluation reports with the provisions of s. 985.412. Each entity is also subject to a financial audit and a performance audit.
- (f) The department may establish rules and policy provisions necessary to implement this section.
- (3) RESTRICTIONS.--This section does not prevent a program initiated under a community juvenile gun violence prevention grant established pursuant to this section from continuing to operate beyond the 3-year maximum funding period if it can find other funding sources. Likewise, this section

does not restrict the number of programs an entity may apply for or operate.

Section 8. Section 985.415, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.415 Community Juvenile Justice Partnership Grants.--

- (1) GRANTS; CRITERIA. --
- (a) In order to encourage the development of county and circuit juvenile justice plans and the development and implementation of county and circuit interagency agreements pursuant to s. 985.4135, the community juvenile justice partnership grant program is established, and shall be administered by the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- (b) In awarding these grants, the department shall consider applications that at a minimum provide for the following:
- 1. The participation of the agencies and programs needed to implement the project or program for which the applicant is applying;
- 2. The reduction of truancy and in-school and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, the reduction of gun-related violence among juveniles, the enhancement of school safety, and other delinquency early-intervention and diversion services;
- 3. The number of youths from 10 through 17 years of age within the geographic area to be served by the program, giving those geographic areas having the highest number of youths from 10 to 17 years of age priority for selection;
- 4. The extent to which the program targets
  high-juvenile-crime neighborhoods and those public schools
  serving juveniles from high-crime neighborhoods;

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- 5. The validity and cost-effectiveness of the program; and
- The degree to which the program is located in and managed by local leaders of the target neighborhoods and public schools serving the target neighborhoods.
- (c) In addition, the department may consider the following criteria in awarding grants:
- The circuit juvenile justice plan and any county juvenile justice plans that are referred to or incorporated into the circuit plan, including a list of individuals, groups, and public and private entities that participated in the development of the plan.
- The diversity of community entities participating in the development of the circuit juvenile justice plan.
- The number of community partners who will be actively involved in the operation of the grant program.
- The number of students or youths to be served by the grant and the criteria by which they will be selected.
- The criteria by which the grant program will be evaluated and, if deemed successful, the feasibility of implementation in other communities.
  - (2) GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES. --
- (a) Each entity wishing to apply for an annual community juvenile justice partnership grant or a community juvenile gun violence prevention grant under s. 985.4167, which may be renewed for a maximum of 2 additional years for the same provision of services, shall submit a grant proposal for funding or continued funding to the department. department shall establish the grant application procedures. In order to be considered for funding, the grant proposal 31 | shall include the following assurances and information:

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- A letter from the chair of the juvenile justice circuit board confirming that the grant application has been reviewed and found to support one or more purposes or goals of the juvenile justice plan as developed by the board.
- 2. A rationale and description of the program and the services to be provided, including goals and objectives.
- 3. A method for identification of the juveniles most likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system who will be the focus of the program.
- Provisions for the participation of parents and guardians in the program.
- 5. Coordination with other community-based and social service prevention efforts, including, but not limited to, drug and alcohol abuse prevention and dropout prevention programs, and programs aimed at preventing juvenile gun violence, that serve the target population or neighborhood.
- 6. An evaluation component to measure the effectiveness of the program in accordance with the provisions of s. 985.412.
- 7. A program budget, including the amount and sources of local cash and in-kind resources committed to the budget. The proposal must establish to the satisfaction of the department that the entity will make a cash or in-kind contribution to the program of a value that is at least equal to 20 percent of the amount of the grant.
  - The necessary program staff.
- (b) The department shall consider the following in awarding such grants:
- The recommendations of the juvenile justice county council as to the priority that should be given to proposals 31 submitted by entities within a county.

- 2. The recommendations of the juvenile justice circuit board as to the priority that should be given to proposals submitted by entities within a circuit.
- (c) The department shall make available, to anyone wishing to apply for such a grant, information on all of the criteria to be used in the selection of the proposals for funding pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.
- (d) The department shall review all program proposals submitted. Entities submitting proposals shall be notified of approval not later than June 30 of each year.
- (e) Each entity that is awarded a grant as provided for in this section shall submit an annual evaluation report to the department, the circuit juvenile justice manager, the juvenile justice circuit board, and the juvenile justice county council, by a date subsequent to the end of the contract period established by the department, documenting the extent to which the program objectives have been met, the effect of the program on the juvenile arrest rate or the incidence of juvenile gun violence, and any other information required by the department. The department shall coordinate and incorporate all such annual evaluation reports with the provisions of s. 985.412. Each entity is also subject to a financial audit and a performance audit.
- (f) The department may establish rules and policy provisions necessary to implement this section.
- (3) RESTRICTIONS.--This section does not prevent a program initiated under a community juvenile justice partnership grant established pursuant to this section or a community juvenile gun violence prevention grant established pursuant to s. 985.4167 from continuing to operate beyond the 3-year maximum funding period if it can find other funding

sources. Likewise, this section does not restrict the number of programs an entity may apply for or operate.

Section 9. There is hereby appropriated the sum of \$1 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Juvenile Justice to fund the community juvenile gun violence prevention grant program established pursuant to s. 985.4166, Florida Statutes, as created by this act.

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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## HOUSE SUMMARY

Creates the "Children's Firearms Responsibility Act of 2001."

Defines "unsafe handgun." Prohibits the manufacture or importation of unsafe handguns into the state. Provides exceptions. Provides a third degree felony penalty for violation. Prohibits the furnishing of unsafe handguns to minors under 18 years of age. Provides a second degree felony penalty for violation and a first degree felony penalty when violation results in death or bodily injury. With respect to culpable negligence, provides for a fine of not more than \$10,000, payment of restitution, and community service in addition to existing criminal penalties for persons convicted of leaving a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of a minor when use of the firearm results in injury or death. Provides a third degree felony penalty for failure to store or leave a loaded firearm as required by law when a minor gains access to the firearm. Expands applicability of such provisions to loaded firearms stored within the interior of a motor vehicle. Provides for a fine of not more than \$10,000, payment of restitution, and community service in addition to existing criminal penalty.

Establishes the juvenile gun violence prevention grant program to be administered by the Department of Juvenile Justice as part of the community juvenile justice partnership grant program. Provides for grant application process. Provides a \$1 million appropriation to the Department of Juvenile Justice for the purpose of funding the community juvenile gun violence prevention grant program.