

By Senator Rouson

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to storage of handguns in private
3 conveyances and vessels; amending s. 790.25, F.S.;
4 providing requirements for storage of handguns in
5 private conveyances and vessels; providing
6 definitions; requiring law enforcement agencies to
7 engage in a specified promotional campaign; requiring
8 certain firearms education, safety, and training
9 courses to include instruction on the requirements for
10 storage of handguns in private conveyances and
11 vessels; amending s. 790.175, F.S.; revising required
12 warnings for transfer or sale of firearms; providing
13 criminal penalties; providing a declaration of
14 important state interest; providing effective dates.

15
16 WHEREAS, on average, at least one gun is stolen from a car
17 every 9 minutes in the United States, and

18 WHEREAS, the rate of gun thefts from cars has tripled in
19 the last decade, showing both consistent increases nearly every
20 year and a marked spike during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

21 WHEREAS, a decade ago, roughly a quarter of gun thefts were
22 from cars, but in 2022, over half of gun thefts were from cars,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, guns are most commonly stolen from cars parked at
25 residences, demonstrating the importance of securely storing
26 guns at all times and locations, and

27 WHEREAS, cities in states with the weakest gun safety laws
28 see nearly 18 times the rate of gun thefts from cars as those in
29 states with the strongest gun laws, and

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WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is the responsibility of parents to supervise their children under 18 years of age, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Effective October 1, 2026, subsection (4) of section 790.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

790.25 Lawful ownership, possession, and use of firearms and other weapons.—

(4) POSSESSION IN PRIVATE CONVEYANCE.—

(a) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. and notwithstanding s. 790.01, a person 18 years of age or older who is in lawful possession of a handgun or other weapon may possess such a handgun or weapon within the interior of a private conveyance if the handgun or weapon is securely encased or otherwise not readily accessible for immediate use. A person who possesses a handgun or other weapon as authorized under this ~~subparagraph~~ ~~paragraph~~ may not carry the handgun or weapon on his or her person.

2.a. A person may not store a handgun, whether loaded or unloaded, in an unoccupied, unsecured private conveyance or vessel unless the handgun is kept from ordinary observation and view and secured with a device or mechanism that is securely affixed to the private conveyance or vessel or kept locked within a trunk, utility or glove box, or other locked container.

b. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term:

(I) "Private conveyance" includes any motor vehicle as defined in s. 790.251(2)(b) other than a public conveyance.

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(II) "Unsecured" means unlocked or otherwise left open to entry.

(III) "Vessel" has the same meaning as in s. 327.02.

c. Each law enforcement agency shall engage in a promotional campaign to educate the public and handgun owners regarding the requirements of sub-subparagraph a.

d. The curricula of the firearms education, safety, and training courses specified in s. 790.06(2)(h)1.-4. and 7. shall contain instruction on the requirements of sub-subparagraph a.

Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 790.175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

790.175 Transfer or sale of firearms; required warnings; penalties.—

(1) Upon the retail commercial sale or retail transfer of any firearm, the seller or transferor shall deliver a written warning to the purchaser or transferee, which warning states, in block letters not less than 1/4 inch in height:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL, AND PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT AND FINE, FOR ANY ADULT TO STORE OR LEAVE A FIREARM IN ANY PLACE WITHIN THE REACH OR EASY ACCESS OF A MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE OR TO KNOWINGLY SELL OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM TO A MINOR OR A PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND. A PERSON MAY NOT STORE A HANDGUN, WHETHER LOADED OR UNLOADED, IN AN UNOCCUPIED, UNSECURED PRIVATE CONVEYANCE OR VESSEL UNLESS THE HANDGUN IS KEPT FROM ORDINARY OBSERVATION AND VIEW AND SECURED WITH A DEVICE OR MECHANISM THAT IS SECURELY AFFIXED TO THE PRIVATE CONVEYANCE OR VESSEL OR KEPT LOCKED WITHIN A TRUNK, UTILITY OR GLOVE BOX, OR OTHER LOCKED CONTAINER."

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(2) Any retail or wholesale store, shop, or sales outlet which sells firearms must conspicuously post at each purchase counter the following warning in block letters not less than 1 inch in height:

"IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE OR LEAVE A FIREARM IN ANY PLACE WITHIN THE REACH OR EASY ACCESS OF A MINOR UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE OR TO KNOWINGLY SELL OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM TO A MINOR OR A PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND. A PERSON MAY NOT STORE A HANDGUN, WHETHER LOADED OR UNLOADED, IN AN UNOCCUPIED, UNSECURED PRIVATE CONVEYANCE OR VESSEL UNLESS THE HANDGUN IS KEPT FROM ORDINARY OBSERVATION AND VIEW AND SECURED WITH A DEVICE OR MECHANISM THAT IS SECURELY AFFIXED TO THE PRIVATE CONVEYANCE OR VESSEL OR KEPT LOCKED WITHIN A TRUNK, UTILITY OR GLOVE BOX, OR OTHER LOCKED CONTAINER."

Section 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to provide for the most efficient and effective deterrent to juvenile theft of handguns from vessels and conveyances, tailored to local conditions and resources. Therefore, the Legislature determines and declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.

Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.