

House Bill 971

By: Representatives Newton of the 127<sup>th</sup>, Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Silcox of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 income taxes, so as to provide for a tax credit for certain eligible expenses incurred for  
3 firearm safe handling instructional courses and firearm secure storage devices; to provide for  
4 an aggregate annual cap; to provide for definitions; to provide for terms and conditions; to  
5 provide for credit preapproval by the department; to provide for rules and regulations; to  
6 provide for a short title; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for an effective date and  
7 applicability; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
8 purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Firearm Safe Handling and Secure Storage  
12 Tax Credit Act."

13 **SECTION 2.**

14 Chapter 7 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to income taxes,  
15 is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

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16 "48-7-29.11A.

17 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

18 (1) 'Eligible expenses' means expenses incurred by an individual taxpayer during the  
19 taxable year for the:

20 (A) Purchase of one or more firearm secure storage devices for his or her personal use;  
21 and

22 (B) Cost of a firearm safe handling instructional course.

23 (2) 'Firearm' means any handgun, shotgun, rifle, or other weapon that will be converted  
24 or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel single or multiple projectiles by  
25 action of an explosion of a combustible material.

26 (3) 'Firearm safe handling instructional course' means an in-person training of at least  
27 two hours in duration that includes, but is not limited to, instruction on safe handling, use,  
28 and storage of firearms.

29 (4) 'Firearm secure storage device' means any device originally manufactured to securely  
30 store or disable a firearm and which may only be unlocked by means of a key, a  
31 combination, or other similar means. Such term shall include, but shall not be limited to,  
32 gun safes, trigger locks, chamber locks, and cable locks.

33 (b)(1) Under the terms and conditions of this Code section, an individual taxpayer shall  
34 be allowed a credit against the tax imposed by Code Section 48-7-20 in the amount of  
35 such taxpayer's eligible expenses or \$300.00, whichever is less.

36 (2) In no event shall the aggregate limit of tax credits allowed under this Code section  
37 for any year exceed \$5 million.

38 (c)(1) The department shall develop a procedure to be followed in the preapproval of any  
39 tax credit allowed pursuant to this Code section.

40 (2) An individual taxpayer seeking a tax credit pursuant to this Code section shall apply  
41 to the department for preapproval of such tax credit. Such taxpayer shall specify the  
42 taxable year for which he or she is seeking a tax credit.

43 (3) Individual taxpayers that properly apply for preapproval of such tax credit following  
44 the procedure developed by the department shall be approved on a first-come, first served  
45 basis until the aggregate limit for such tax credits is reached for that year.

46 (4) The department shall preapprove tax credits for each preapproval application within  
47 30 days and in the received order of submitted applications. Such preapproved tax credits  
48 shall be in the amount of \$300.00 for each preapproval application.

49 (5) In the event that an individual taxpayer applies for preapproval and the amount of tax  
50 credits available for the taxable year are not sufficient to fully fund the tax credits  
51 requested, the department shall deny such taxpayer's request and shall not accept any  
52 additional preapproval applications from taxpayers for the taxable year.

53 (6) No individual taxpayer shall be preapproved for a tax credit pursuant to this Code  
54 section more than once in the lifetime of the taxpayer; provided, however, that nothing  
55 in this Code section shall be construed to prevent an individual taxpayer from applying  
56 for preapproval more than once.

57 (d)(1) For a tax credit allowed pursuant to this Code section, an individual taxpayer shall  
58 maintain receipts for purchases or costs relative to the eligible expenses for two years  
59 following the submission of the taxpayer's tax return claiming such tax credit. Such  
60 receipts shall be made available upon request for review by the commissioner.

61 (2) No individual taxpayer shall be allowed credits pursuant to this Code section which  
62 exceed a total of \$300.00 in the lifetime of the taxpayer.

63 (e) In no event shall the total amount of any tax credit under this Code section for a taxable  
64 year exceed the taxpayer's income tax liability. No unused tax credit shall be allowed to  
65 be carried forward to apply to the taxpayer's succeeding years' tax liability. No such tax  
66 credit shall be allowed the taxpayer against prior years' tax liability.

67 (f) The commissioner shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for  
68 the implementation and administration of this Code section.

69 (g) This Code section shall stand repealed and reserved on December 31, 2030."

70 **SECTION 3.**

71 This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2025, and shall be applicable to taxable years  
72 beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

73 **SECTION 4.**

74 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.