

HOUSE BILL 563

By Hemmer

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 17, Part 13, relative to firearms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1307, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(k)

(1) It is an offense for a person to store a handgun, whether loaded or unloaded, in a motor vehicle while the person is not in the motor vehicle unless the handgun is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, utility or glove box, or a locked container securely affixed to the motor vehicle.

(2) As used in this subsection (k):

(A) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (e)(2)(A); and

(B) "Trunk" means the fully enclosed and locked main storage compartment of a motor vehicle that is not accessible from the passenger compartment but does not include any compartment that has a window, the bed of a pickup truck, or the rear area of a hatchback, station wagon-type motor vehicle, or sport utility motor vehicle.

(3) A violation of this subsection (k) is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable only by the completion of a court-approved handgun safety course. The court shall not impose a fine or incarceration as punishment for a violation of this subsection (k).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1313(a)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting the following:

(2)

(A) The firearm or ammunition being transported or stored in the motor vehicle is kept from ordinary observation if the person is in the motor vehicle; or

(B)

(i) The ammunition being transported or stored in the motor vehicle is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, glove box, or interior of the person's motor vehicle or a container securely affixed to the motor vehicle if the person is not in the motor vehicle;

(ii) The firearm being transported or stored in the motor vehicle is other than a handgun and is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, glove box, or interior of the person's motor vehicle or a container securely affixed to the motor vehicle if the person is not in the motor vehicle; or

(iii) The firearm being transported or stored in the motor vehicle is a handgun and is stored in accordance with § 39-17-1307(i) if the person is not in the vehicle.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A person who owns a handgun shall report the loss or theft of the handgun to a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the location where the handgun was lost or stolen within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery of the loss or theft.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable only by the completion of a court-approved handgun safety course. The court shall not impose a fine or incarceration as punishment for a violation of this section.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.