

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**1997 Legislative Session**Bill No. CB-31-1997Chapter No. 32Proposed and Presented by Chairman (by request - County Executive)Introduced by Council Members Del Giudice, Gourdine, Wilson and Russell

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction June 10, 1997**BILL**

AN ACT concerning

Child Safety Handgun Locks

For the purpose of requiring that gun dealers sell or otherwise provide a child safety handgun lock or similar mechanism with every handgun sold, leased or otherwise transferred; and requiring the posting of certain notice on the premises where handguns are sold or leased.

BY adding:

SUBTITLE 14. MORALS AND CONDUCT.

Section 14-141.01,

The Prince George's County Code

(1995 Edition).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the following findings are made:

1. Unintentional shootings account for more than 20 percent of all firearm-related fatalities among children ages 14 and under.
2. There are a high number of accidental deaths or injuries caused to children in this country by the unintentional discharge of firearms.
3. Each year, an estimated 1,500 children ages 14 and under are treated in hospital emergency rooms for unintentional firearm-related injuries.
4. Section 36K of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland requires gun owners to limit access to such weapons by children.

5. Notwithstanding the requirements of State law, additional safeguards are needed to protect children from injury or death from the unintentional discharge of loaded and unlocked firearms.

6. Child safety handgun locks can prevent a significant number of unintentional firearm injuries and fatalities.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 14-141.01 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby added:

SUBTITLE 14. MORALS AND CONDUCT.

DIVISION 6. WEAPONS.

Sec. 14-141.01. Handgun sales or transfers; child safety handgun lock required; notice.

(a) For purposes of this Section, "child safety handgun lock" means a device that when locked in place by means of a key, prevents a potential user from pulling the trigger of a handgun without first removing the lock by use of a key.

(b) No licensed firearm dealer shall sell, lease or otherwise transfer a handgun without also selling or otherwise providing with each handgun a child safety handgun lock or similar device designed to prevent the handgun from being fired by an unauthorized user.

(c) Every licensed firearm dealer permitted by law to sell, lease or otherwise transfer a firearm shall post conspicuously within the premises where such transactions take place a notice of the requirement of Subsection (a), above, and the requirements of Section 36K of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland regarding keeping guns out of the reach of children.

(d) Any person convicted of a violation of this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 1st day of July, 1997.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:
Dorothy F. Bailey
Chair

ATTEST:

Joyce T. Sweeney
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____

BY:
Wayne K. Curry
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.