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**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Legislative Session

1992

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Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ CB-8-

1992

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Chapter No.

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Proposed and Presented by \_\_\_\_\_ Council Members  
MacKinnon, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Pemberton and Del  
Giudice \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by \_\_\_\_\_ Council Members MacKinnon,  
Pemberton, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and Del  
Giudice \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Sponsors

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Date of Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ February 18,  
1992 \_\_\_\_\_

**BILL**

AN ACT concerning

Access by Minors to Firearms

FOR the purpose of restricting the unsupervised access by  
minors to certain firearms; requiring that firearms dealers

offer to sell firearm safeguard devices and to post a specific warning notice; and providing penalties.

BY adding:

SUBTITLE 14. MORALS AND CONDUCT.

Sections 14-139.5,

14-139.6,

14-139.7,

14-142.5, and

14-142.6,

The Prince George's County Code

(1991 Edition).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections 14-139.5, 14-139.6, 14-139.7, 14-142.5, and 142.6 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

**SUBTITLE 14. MORALS AND CONDUCT.**

**DIVISION 6. WEAPONS.**

**Sec. 14-139.5. Definitions.**

(a) For purposes of this Division, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

(1) **Ammunition** shall mean any cartridge, shell or other device containing explosive or incendiary material designed and intended for use in any firearm.

(2) **Firearm** shall mean a pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, or any other device which is designed and constructed to propel a missile from the device by use of explosive force.

(3) **Minor** shall mean any person under the age of 18.

**Sec. 14-139.6. Access to firearms by minors.**

(a) Except as provided in this Section, a person shall not leave a loaded firearm, or an unloaded firearm in proximity to ammunition, in any location where the person knows, or reasonably should know. that a minor may gain access to the firearm.

(b) This Section shall not apply where:

(1) A minor's access to and use of a firearm is supervised by a person 21 years of age or older;

(2) A firearm is in a locked gun cabinet or similar locked container or is secured with a trigger lock or other similar device which prevents the firearm from discharging ammunition; or

(3) A minor's access to a firearm was obtained as a result of an unlawful entry to the premises or other unlawful act.

**Sec. 14-139.7. Firearm safeguard devices; offer to sell.**

(a) Prior to the sale of any firearm, a licensed firearms dealer shall explicitly offer to sell or give to the purchaser a trigger lock or similar device designed to prevent the firearm from discharging ammunition.

(b) At every purchase counter in every store, shop or sales outlet where firearms are sold, the following warning written in block letters not less than one inch in height shall be

conspicuously posted: "It is unlawful to leave a loaded firearm, or an unloaded firearm in close proximity to ammunition, where a person less than 18 years of age can obtain access to the firearm. You can buy a trigger lock here to prevent children from using your firearm illegally."

**Sec. 14-142.5. Penalties.**

Violation of this Division is punishable upon conviction by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars or by imprisonment not to exceed six months or both.

**Sec. 14-142.6 Liability.**

Violation of this Division shall constitute gross negligence in any civil action arising from such violation.

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

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1992.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_

Richard J. Castaldi  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce T. Sweeney  
Acting Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BY:

Parris N. Glendening  
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.