

2016 -- H 7535

=====  
LC004004  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

—————  
A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Slater, Maldonado, and Abney

Date Introduced: February 10, 2016

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Attorney General)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 11-47-33 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-47 entitled "Weapons"  
2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **11-47-33. Possession of firearms by minors.** -- (a) It shall be unlawful within this state  
4 for any person under eighteen (18) years of age to possess ~~and use~~ any firearm. ~~unless he or she~~  
5 ~~shall hold a permit as provided in § 11-47-34, and unless the person is in the presence of a parent~~  
6 ~~or guardian or supervising adult at any regular and recognized camp or rifle range approved by~~  
7 ~~the Rhode Island state police or by the chief of police of the city or town in which the camp or~~  
8 ~~rifle range is located; provided, that this provision shall not apply to minors engaged in lawful~~  
9 ~~hunting activity under the supervision of a parent or guardian or qualified adult, minors~~  
10 ~~participating in Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, ceremonial parade activities,~~  
11 ~~competitive and target shooting, participants in state militia activities and minors participating in~~  
12 ~~a basic firearms education program; provided, further, that a person under eighteen (18) years of~~  
13 ~~age may carry a firearm, unloaded, in a suitable case to and from his or her home and the camp or~~  
14 ~~range and from the camp or range to other camp or range when accompanied by a parent,~~  
15 ~~guardian or supervising adult.~~

16           (b) This provision shall not apply to such persons that:

17           (1) Are in the presence of a parent or guardian or qualified adult at any regular and  
18 recognized shooting range or any range where the firearm may lawfully be shot;

19           (2) Are engaged in lawful hunting activity as provided in §20-13-5;

1           (3) Are participating in competitive or target shooting when accompanied by a parent,  
2 guardian or qualified adult; or

3           (4) Are participating in Reserve Officer Training Corps programs, ceremonial parade  
4 activities, participants in state militia activities or minors participating in a basic firearms  
5 education program.

6           (c) When accompanied by a parent, guardian or qualified adult, a person under eighteen  
7 (18) years of age may transport a firearm, unloaded and encased in a hard-sided or soft-sided,  
8 locked case to and from their home and the range and from the range to another range; or to and  
9 from their home when the firearm is being lawfully purchased or being repaired; or to and from  
10 all the activities exempted in subsection (b) of this section.

11           ~~(b)~~(d) For purposes of this section only, "qualified adult" means any person ~~twenty-one~~  
12 ~~(21)~~ eighteen (18) years of age or older and permitted by law to possess and use the firearm in  
13 question.

14           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004004  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - WEAPONS

\*\*\*

1           This act would criminalize the mere possession of a firearm by a minor, but would  
2 provide for limited exceptions while the minor is in the presence of a qualified adult or  
3 participating in certain competitive or ceremonial events.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC004004  
=====