

# HB224 INTRODUCED



1 HB224

2 CR8TWQJ-1

3 By Representatives Drummond, Lawrence, Hollis, Warren, Clarke

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5 RFD: Judiciary

6 First Read: 22-Feb-24



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a person may not knowingly carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a public school with the intent to do bodily harm.

This bill would provide a criminal penalty for a parent or legal guardian that does not reasonably secure their firearm which results in their minor unlawfully possessing the firearm on the premises of a public school.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, prohibits a general law whose purpose or effect would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds from becoming effective with regard to a local governmental entity without enactment by a 2/3 vote unless: it comes within one of a number of specified exceptions; it is approved by the affected entity; or the Legislature appropriates funds, or provides a local source of revenue, to the entity for the purpose.

The purpose or effect of this bill would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of the section. However, the bill



## HB224 INTRODUCED

29 does not require approval of a local governmental  
30 entity or enactment by a 2/3 vote to become effective  
31 because it comes within one of the specified exceptions  
32 contained in the section.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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40 Relating to firearms; to amend Section 13A-11-72, Code  
41 of Alabama 1975, as last amended by Act 2023-487, 2023 Regular  
42 Session, to provide a criminal penalty for a parent or legal  
43 guardian who fails to reasonably secure his or her firearm  
44 resulting in his or her minor possessing the firearm on the  
45 premises of a public school; to make nonsubstantive, technical  
46 revisions to update the existing code language to current  
47 style; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose  
48 or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of  
49 local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the  
50 Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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Section 1. Section 13A-11-72, Code of Alabama 1975, as  
53 last amended by Act 2023-487, 2023 Regular Session, is amended  
54 to read as follows:

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"§13A-11-72

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(a) (1) No person who has been convicted in this state



## HB224 INTRODUCED

57 or elsewhere of committing or attempting to commit a crime of  
58 violence, misdemeanor offense of domestic violence, violent  
59 offense as listed in Section 12-25-32(15), anyone who is  
60 subject to a valid protection order for domestic abuse, or  
61 anyone of unsound mind shall own a firearm or have one in his  
62 or her possession or under his or her control.

63 (2) A violation of this subsection is a Class C felony.

64 (b) (1) No person who is a minor, except under the  
65 circumstances provided in ~~this section~~ subsections (g) and  
66 (h), an habitual drunkard, or who has a drug addiction shall  
67 own a pistol or have one in his or her possession or under his  
68 or her control.

69 (2) A violation of this subsection is a Class A  
70 misdemeanor.

71 (c) (1) No person who is an alien and is illegally or  
72 unlawfully in the United States or has been admitted to the  
73 United States under a nonimmigrant visa as defined in 8 U.S.C  
74 § 1101(a)(26), provided no exception to this subsection as  
75 listed in 18 U.S.C § 922(y)(2) applies, shall own a pistol or  
76 other firearm or have one in his or her possession or under  
77 his or her control.

78 (2) A violation of this subsection is a Class C felony.

79 (d) (1) Subject to the exceptions provided by Section  
80 13A-11-74, no person shall knowingly with intent to do bodily  
81 harm carry or possess a deadly weapon on the premises of a  
82 public school.

83 (2) A violation of this subsection is a Class C felony.

84 (e) School security personnel and school resource



## HB224 INTRODUCED

85 officers qualified under Section 16-1-44.1(a), employed by a  
86 local board of education, and authorized by the employing  
87 local board of education to carry a deadly weapon while on  
88 duty are exempt from subsection (d). Law enforcement officers  
89 are exempt from this section, and persons with permits issued  
90 pursuant to Section 13A-11-75, are exempt from subsection (d).

91 (f) (1) A parent or legal guardian of a minor shall  
92 store a firearm in his or her possession or under his or her  
93 control in a manner that reasonably secures the firearm from  
94 unauthorized or unlawful access by a minor.

95 (2) Except as authorized under subsection (g) or (h),  
96 if a parent or legal guardian fails to reasonably secure a  
97 firearm as required under subdivision (1), and his or her  
98 minor gains access to the firearm and unlawfully possesses the  
99 firearm on the premises of a public school, the parent or  
100 legal guardian is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

101 (3) For the purposes of this subsection, "reasonably  
102 secure" includes, but is not limited to, storing a firearm  
103 using a trigger lock or in a locked box or gun safe that  
104 requires a key, numerical or alphanumeric combination, or  
105 fingerprint to open.

106 ~~(f)~~ (g) A person shall not be in violation of Section  
107 13A-11-57 or 13A-11-76 and a minor shall not be in violation  
108 of this section if the minor has permission to possess a  
109 pistol from a parent or legal guardian who is not prohibited  
110 from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, and any  
111 of the following are satisfied:

112 (1) The minor is attending a hunter education course or



## HB224 INTRODUCED

113 a firearms safety course under the supervision of an adult who  
114 is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or  
115 federal law.

116 (2) The minor is engaging in practice in the use of a  
117 firearm or target shooting at an established range under the  
118 supervision of an adult who is not prohibited from possessing  
119 a firearm under state or federal law.

120 (3) The minor is engaging in an organized competition  
121 involving the use of a firearm or participating in or  
122 practicing for a performance by an organized group under 26  
123 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) which uses firearms as part of the  
124 performance.

125 (4) The minor is hunting or fishing pursuant to a valid  
126 license, if required, and the person has the license in his or  
127 her possession; has written permission of the owner or legal  
128 possessor of the land on which the activities are being  
129 conducted; and the pistol, when loaded, is carried only in a  
130 manner discernible by ordinary observation.

131 (5) The minor is on real property under the control of  
132 the minor's parent, legal guardian, or grandparent.

133 (6) The minor is a member of the armed services or  
134 National Guard and the minor is acting in the line of duty.

135 (7) The minor is traveling by motor vehicle to any of  
136 the locations or activities listed in subdivisions (1) through  
137 (6), has written permission to possess the pistol or firearm  
138 by his or her parent or legal guardian, and the pistol or  
139 firearm is unloaded, locked in a compartment or container that  
140 is in or affixed securely to the motor vehicle, and is out of



## HB224 INTRODUCED

141 reach of the driver and any passenger in the motor vehicle.

142 ~~(g)~~ (h) This section does not apply to a minor who uses  
143 a pistol or other firearm while acting in self-defense of  
144 himself, herself, or other persons against an intruder into  
145 the residence of the minor or a residence in which the minor  
146 is an invited guest.

147 ~~(h)~~ (i) For the purposes of this section, the following  
148 terms have the following meanings:

149 (1) CONVICTED. a. Means a person was represented by  
150 counsel in the case, or knowingly and intelligently waived the  
151 right to counsel in the case if required by law, and either  
152 the case was tried before a judge, tried by a jury, or the  
153 person knowingly and intelligently waived the right to have  
154 the case tried, by guilty plea or otherwise.

155 b. A person is not considered to have been convicted  
156 for the purposes of this section if the person is not  
157 considered to have been convicted in the jurisdiction in which  
158 the proceedings were held or the conviction has been expunged,  
159 set aside, or is of an offense for which the person has been  
160 pardoned or has had his or her civil rights restored, unless  
161 the pardon, expungement, or restoration of civil rights  
162 expressly provides that the person may not ship, transport,  
163 possess, or receive firearms.

164 (2) DEADLY WEAPON. A firearm or anything manifestly  
165 designed, made, or adapted for the purposes of inflicting  
166 death or serious physical injury, ~~and the~~ The term includes,  
167 but is not limited to, a bazooka, hand grenade, missile, or  
168 explosive or incendiary device; a pistol, rifle, or shotgun;



## HB224 INTRODUCED

169 ~~or~~ a switch-blade knife, gravity knife, stiletto, sword, or  
170 dagger; or any club, baton, billy, black-jack, bludgeon, or  
171 metal knuckles.

172 (3) MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. A  
173 misdemeanor offense that has, as its elements, the use or  
174 attempted use of physical force or the threatened use of a  
175 dangerous instrument or deadly weapon, and the victim is a  
176 current or former spouse, parent, child, person with whom the  
177 defendant has a child in common, or a present or former  
178 household member.

179 (4) PUBLIC SCHOOL. A school composed of grades K-12  
180 and shall include a school bus used for grades K-12.

181 (5) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL. A spouse or former spouse of  
182 the person, an individual who is a parent of a child of the  
183 person, or an individual who cohabitates or has cohabited with  
184 the person.

185 (6) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER. An Alabama Peace  
186 Officers' Standards and Training Commissioner-certified law  
187 enforcement officer employed by a law enforcement agency who  
188 is specifically selected and specially trained for the school  
189 setting.

190 (7) UNSOUND MIND. Includes any person who is subject  
191 to any of the findings listed below, and who has not had his  
192 or her rights to possess a firearm reinstated by operation of  
193 law or legal process:

194 a. Found by a court, board, commission, or other lawful  
195 authority that, as a result of marked subnormal intelligence,  
196 mental illness, incompetency, condition, or disease, is a



## HB224 INTRODUCED

197 danger to himself, herself, or others or lacks the mental  
198 capacity to contract or manage his or her own affairs.

199 b. Found to be insane, not guilty by reason of mental  
200 disease or defect, found mentally incompetent to stand trial,  
201 or found not guilty by a reason of lack of mental  
202 responsibility by a court in a criminal case, to include  
203 state, federal, and military courts.

204 c. Involuntarily committed for a final commitment for  
205 inpatient treatment to the Department of Mental Health or a  
206 Veterans' Administration hospital by a court after a hearing.

207 (8) VALID PROTECTION ORDER. An order issued after a  
208 hearing of which the person received actual notice, and at  
209 which the person had an opportunity to participate, that does  
210 either of the following:

211 a. Restrains the person from harassing, stalking, or  
212 threatening a qualified individual or child of the qualified  
213 individual or person or engaging in other conduct that would  
214 place a qualified individual in reasonable fear of bodily  
215 injury to the individual or child and that includes a finding  
216 that the person represents a credible threat to the physical  
217 safety of the qualified individual or child.

218 b. By its terms, explicitly prohibits the use,  
219 attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the  
220 qualified individual or child that would reasonably be  
221 expected to cause bodily injury.

222 Section 2. Although this bill would have as its purpose  
223 or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of  
224 local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements



## HB224 INTRODUCED

225 and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of  
226 Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or  
227 amends the definition of an existing crime.

228 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
229 1, 2024.