

HB 6 -- FIREARMS

SPONSOR: Price

This bill creates the offense of unlawfully storing and securing a firearm in the presence of a child. This offense is committed if a firearm is discharged by a child and results in an injury or death if the child gained access to a readily dischargeable firearm when a person, acting with criminal negligence, failed to secure the firearm or left the firearm in a place they knew or should have known the child could access.

Unlawfully storing and securing a firearm is punishable as a class D misdemeanor, unless the child discharges a round from the firearm causing death or serious bodily injury to themselves or someone else, in which case it is punishable as a class A misdemeanor.

The bill also provides several affirmative defenses to the offense of unlawfully storing and securing a firearm in the presence of a child: if the child's access to the firearm was under the supervision of someone who is at least 18 years of age and the firearm was used for a hunting or sporting purpose; if the child obtains access to the firearm by illegal means; or if the child ultimately uses the firearm in an act of lawful self-defense.

This bill is the same as HB 995 (2019).