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HOUSE BILL NO. 375

House Amendments in [] - February 1, 2012

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia, relating to control of firearms by localities; workplace rules.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Pogge

Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 15.2-915. Control of firearms; applicability to authorities and local governmental agencies.

A. No locality shall adopt or enforce any ordinance, resolution or motion, as permitted by § 15.2-1425, and no agent of such locality shall take any administrative action, governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof other than those expressly authorized by statute. For purposes of this section, a statute that does not refer to firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, shall not be construed to provide express authorization.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit a locality from adopting workplace rules relating to terms and conditions of employment of the workforce, *except that no locality shall adopt any workplace rule that prevents an employee from storing a lawfully possessed firearm and ammunition in a locked personal, private motor vehicle when such firearm is secured in a container or compartment in the vehicle.* Nothing in this section shall prohibit a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101, from acting within the scope of his duties.

The provisions of this section applicable to a locality shall also apply to any authority or to a local governmental entity, including a department or agency, but not including any local or regional jail [~~or~~,] juvenile detention facility [, or public school] .

B. Any local ordinance, resolution or motion adopted prior to the effective date of this act governing the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying or transporting of firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, other than those expressly authorized by statute, is invalid.

C. In addition to any other relief provided, the court may award reasonable attorney fees, expenses, and court costs to any person, group, or entity that prevails in an action challenging (i) an ordinance, resolution, or motion as being in conflict with this section or (ii) an administrative action taken in bad faith as being in conflict with this section.

[D. *The provisions of this section shall apply only to workplaces of the locality.*]

ENGROSSED

HB375E