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SENATE BILL NO. 581

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary

on February 3, 2020)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Howell)

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-56.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to allowing access to firearms by minors; penalty.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-56.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-56.2. Allowing access to firearms by minors; penalty.

A. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person to recklessly leave a loaded, unsecured firearm in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any ~~child~~ *person* under the age of ~~fourteen~~ 18. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 3 *1* misdemeanor.

This subsection shall not apply to conduct in the course of hunting and trapping, as defined in § 29.1-100, by lawful means and in a lawful manner.

B. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person knowingly to authorize a child under the age of ~~twelve~~ 12 to use a firearm except when the child is under the supervision of an adult. Any person violating this subsection ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. For purposes of this subsection, "adult" ~~shall mean~~ means a parent, guardian, person standing in loco parentis to the child, or a person ~~twenty-one~~ 21 years of age or ~~over~~ older who has the permission of the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to supervise the child in the use of a firearm.