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SENATE BILL NO. 581

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

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

Patrons—Howell and Boysko; Delegate: Kory

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

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 ~~misdemeanor~~ 6 *felony*.

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.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 854 of the Acts of Assembly of 2019 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

INTRODUCED

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