

SENATE BILL 1029

By Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 17, Part 13, relative to firearms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1307, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(i)

(1) It is an offense for a person to store a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or firearm ammunition, in a motor vehicle or boat while the person is not in the motor vehicle or boat unless the firearm or firearm ammunition is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, utility or glove box, or a locked container securely affixed to the motor vehicle or boat.

(2) As used in this subsection (i):

(A) "Boat" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision

(e)(2)(A);

(B) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (e)(2)(A); and

(C) "Trunk" means the fully enclosed and locked main storage compartment of a motor vehicle that is not accessible from the passenger compartment, but does not include any compartment that has a window, the bed of a pickup truck, or the rear area of a hatchback, station wagon-type motor vehicle, or sport utility motor vehicle.

(3) A violation of this subsection (i) is a Class C misdemeanor punishable only by the completion of a court-approved firearm safety course. The court shall not impose a fine or incarceration as punishment for a violation of this subsection (i).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1313(a)(2)(B), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting the following:

(B) Is stored in accordance with § 39-17-1307(i) if the person is not in the vehicle.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A person who owns a firearm shall report the loss or theft of the firearm to a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the location where the firearm was lost or stolen within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery of the loss or theft.

(b) A violation of this section is a Class C misdemeanor punishable only by the completion of a court-approved firearm safety course. The court shall not impose a fine or incarceration as punishment for a violation of this section.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.