

1 SENATE BILL NO. 496

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice

4 on January 26, 2026)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Marsden)

6 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.7:1, relating to secure storage*
7 *of handguns; unattended locked vehicle; penalty.*8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.7:1 as follows:**10 **§ 18.2-308.7:1. Secure storage of handguns in unattended vehicles; penalty.**11 **A. For purposes of this subsection:**12 *"Handgun" has the same meaning as ascribed to "firearm" in subsection F of § 18.2-308.2:2.*13 *"Vehicle" has the same meaning as ascribed to "motor vehicle" in § 46.2-364. A "boat" is considered a*
14 *vehicle and is defined as any vessel or other watercraft, privately owned, whether moved by oars, paddles,*
15 *sails, or other power mechanism, inboard or outboard, or any other vessel or structure floating on water in*
16 *the Commonwealth, whether or not capable of self-locomotion, including cruisers, cabin cruisers, runabouts,*
17 *houseboats and barges. However, bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-*
18 *assisted bicycles, motorized skateboards or scooters, and mopeds are not vehicles.*19 **B. No person shall knowingly leave a handgun in an unattended locked vehicle or trunk unless such**
20 **handgun is in a locked hard-sided container that is placed out of plain view, including a locked container**
21 **that is permanently affixed to the vehicle's interior. A locked container permanently affixed to the vehicle's**
22 **interior does not include the glove compartment or center console. Any person who violates this section is**
23 **guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.**24 **C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) any person in lawful possession of a firearm who is**
25 **carrying such firearm on or about his person, (ii) the storage of any antique firearm as defined in**
26 **§ 18.2-308.2:2, or (iii) a law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101.**27 **D. This section shall not apply to a person with a disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities**
28 **Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2), who stores a handgun in a locked soft-sided container in an unattended locked**
29 **vehicle.**