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HOUSE BILL NO. 871

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice
on February 23, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Downey)

A *BILL* to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.7:1, relating to storage of firearms in a residence where a minor or person prohibited from possessing a firearm is present; penalty.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-308.7:1 as follows:

§ 18.2-308.7:1. Storage of firearms; penalty.

A. For purposes of this section:

"Firearm" means the same as that term is defined in § 18.2-308.2:2.

"Minor" means an individual younger than 18 years of age who is not authorized to use or possess a firearm under § 18.2-308.7.

B. Any person who possesses a firearm in a residence where such person knows that a minor or a person who is prohibited by law from possessing a firearm is present shall store such firearm and the ammunition for such firearm in a locked container, compartment, or cabinet that is inaccessible to such minor or prohibited person. A firearm may be stored loaded, provided that (i) such firearm is stored in a storage device with a combination lock, coded lock, or biometric lock and (ii) no minor or prohibited person is an authorized user for the lock of such storage device. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) any person in lawful possession of a firearm who is carrying such firearm on his person or (ii) the storage of any antique firearm as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2.

D. Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing any person from lawfully authorizing a minor to access a firearm in accordance with § 18.2-56.2.

E. Every dealer, as defined in § 18.2-308.2:2, shall post in a conspicuous manner at the premises of such dealer a notice stating: "Any person who possesses a firearm in a residence where such person knows that a minor or a person who is prohibited by law from possessing a firearm is present shall store such firearm and the ammunition for such firearm in a locked container, compartment, or cabinet that is inaccessible to such minor or prohibited person. A violation of this law is a Class 4 misdemeanor."