



# HOUSE BILL 72: Firearm Safe Storage Awareness Initiative.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	February 14, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Carson Smith, Clemmons, White, K. Baker	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Susan Sitze and Alejandro Ramirez
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H72-CSCL-5		Staff Attorneys

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**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 72 would direct The Department of Public Safety in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Wildlife Resources Commission to launch a two-year firearm safety program to educate the public on safe storage of firearms and to facilitate the distribution of gun locks.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S67, as introduced by Sens. Hanig, Britt, Perry, which is currently in Senate Judiciary. This PCS is identical to the PCS adopted in Senate Judiciary.]

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS would require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to launch a two-year firearm safety awareness initiative (initiative) about safe firearm storage and to facilitate the distribution of free gun locks. DPS would have the option of hiring a third-party entity to launch the initiative.

The initiative would require DPS to:

- Create a website about firearm safety, with information about firearm storage, obtaining free gun locks, hunting, and suicide prevention. It would also provide toolkits for local governments to use in local events and campaigns.
- Develop a plan to spread awareness about the website and provide technical assistance to local communities.

DPS shall report their progress on the initiative to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human services by September 1, 2024.

The PCS would prohibit the use of any money spent on this initiative to be used for advocacy or lobbying for changes to the law.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would become effective on July 1, 2023.

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