



HOUSE BILL 894: Gun Dealer Door Lock Exemption.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Commerce and Economic Development. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House **Date:** May 6, 2025

Introduced by: Rep. Adams **Prepared by:** Amy Darden

Analysis of: First Edition **Committee Counsel**

OVERVIEW: House Bill 894 would require the State Building Code Council to adopt rules to amend the North Carolina State Building Code to provide an exemption from door lock requirements for business entities licensed to sell firearms as a federal firearms dealer, when they are issued a permit by the local fire code official.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 894 would require the State Build Code Council (Council) to adopt rules to amend the North Carolina State Building Code (Code) to provide an exemption from the door lock requirements for business entities licensed to sell firearms as a federal firearms dealer, that are primarily engaged in the business of selling firearms or ammunition when issued a permit to that effect by the local fire code official. The Council must ensure the exemption is applicable only during nonbusiness hours when the business is closed to the public.

Until the new rules required by the bill are in full effect, the Council and local governments enforcing the Code must issue a permit to a business entity licensed to sell firearms as a federal firearms dealer that is primarily engaged in the business of selling firearms or ammunition providing the following exemption from the door lock requirements:

- The business entity must pay a permit fee of \$500 to the local inspection department and meet the following requirements:
 - The business has a sales floor and customer occupancy space that is on one floor and no larger than 15,000 square feet of retail space.
 - The business is equipped with an approved smoke, fire, and break-in alarm system installed and operated in accordance with the requirements of the fire code official.
 - The owner or operator of the business provides to all employees within the later of (i) 10 days of the issuance of the permit under this section, or (ii) at the time the employee is hired, a written facility locking plan applicable for the close of business each day.
 - Each entrance to the business is posted with a sign conspicuously located that warns that the building is exempt from the door lock requirements of the Code during nonbusiness hours only and that doors will remain locked from the inside even in case of fire.
- The local inspection department will file copies of permits issued pursuant to this bill with all local law enforcement and fire protection agencies that provide protection for the business entity.

Kara McCraw
Director



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- The local inspection department shall be responsible for any inspections necessary for the issuance of permits and will be responsible for periodic inspections to ensure compliance with requirements.
- The local inspection department will revoke a permit issued upon a finding that the requirements for the original issuance of the permit are not being complied with or upon a finding that the business entity has failed to limit its use of the exemption to nonbusiness hours when the business is closed to the public.

The requirements will sunset when the permanent rules adopted by the Council become effective.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law.