

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 344

BY SENATOR BARROW

WEAPONS. Creates the crime of unsecured storage of firearms. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 14:95.4, relative to weapons; to create the crime of unsecured storage of firearms; to provide for elements of the crime; to provide definitions; to provide penalties; to provide for exceptions; to guarantee constitutional rights; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:95.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§95.4. Unsecured storage of firearms

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to store a firearm in an unsecured manner on premises under his control if he either knows or should reasonably know that a minor or prohibited person may gain access to the firearm.

B. For purposes of this Section:

(1) "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen years.

(2) "Prohibited person" means any person who is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 14:95.1 or any other state or federal law, any person who has been adjudicated mentally ill or committed to a mental institution, or any person subject to a protective order

1 prohibiting the owning or possessing of firearms.

2 (3) "Tamper-resistant trigger lock" means a mechanical locking device
3 that is affixed to a firearm so as to block operation of the trigger and that
4 requires a key, combination, biometric input, or other secure authentication
5 method to remove or disengage the device.

6 (4) "Unsecured" means not stored either in a locked container or with
7 a tamper-resistant trigger lock properly attached.

8 C. The provisions of this Section shall not apply in any of the following
9 circumstances:

10 (1) The firearm is carried on the person of the owner.

11 (2) The minor or prohibited person obtains the firearm as a result of an
12 unlawful entry onto the premises.

13 (3) The minor obtains the firearm with the permission of the owner for
14 lawful hunting or recreational shooting activity while under adult supervision.

15 D.(1) Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not
16 more than five hundred dollars, imprisoned for not more than six months, or
17 both.

18 (2) If a violation of this Section results in bodily injury being caused to
19 another person by a minor or prohibited person who obtained an unsecured
20 firearm, the offender shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars,
21 imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than one year, or both.

22 E. The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to impair the
23 right of any person to keep and bear arms as provided by Article I, Section 11
24 of the Constitution of Louisiana or the Second Amendment of the United States
25 Constitution.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 344 Original 2026 Regular Session Barrow

Proposed law creates the crime of unsecured storage of firearms and makes it unlawful for a person to store a firearm in an unsecured manner on premises under his control when he either knows or should reasonably know that a minor or prohibited person may gain access to the firearm.

Proposed law defines "minor", "prohibited person", "tamper-resistant trigger lock", and "unsecured".

Proposed law provides exceptions for when:

- (1) The firearm is carried on the person of the owner.
- (2) When a minor or prohibited person obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry onto the premises.
- (3) The minor obtains the firearm with the permission of the gun owner for lawful hunting or recreational shooting activity while under adult supervision.

Proposed law provides an offender will be fined not more than \$500, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. Proposed law also provides that, if a violation results in bodily injury being caused to another person by a minor or prohibited person who obtained an unsecured firearm, the offender will be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than one year, or both.

Proposed law cannot be construed to impair the right to keep and bear arms under La. Const. Art. I, Sec. 11, or the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 14:95.4)