

Date: February 27, 2024

To: Ellen.McDaniel@House.Mn.Gov.

From: Dennis Anderson, Menahga, Minnesota

Subject: Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.666 amended to read:
609.666 NEGLIGENT STORAGE OF FIREARMS.

This bill as written places the lives of law-abiding firearms owners at risk.

On practical terms the bill cannot be enforced.

The bill mandates involuntary cost burdens on firearms owners.

The bill assigns egregiously harsh and unwarranted penalties to law-abiding firearms owners potentially required to defend themselves and their families with lethal force.

Lives at risk: The persons listed in this bill as not allowed to own firearms describe people of a criminal mind who ignore firearms law and while armed are known to attack citizens in their homes. Seldom do they give advance notice of their intent to violently enter those homes.

Citizens suddenly confronted with this invasion have their lives now at risk. There is no time available to load ammunition and unlock a defensive firearm or otherwise go to and unlock a gun safe or some other storage unit. Thus defenseless, homeowners are immediately at the mercy of whatever violence may now await them which can be their death.

Bill not enforceable: Do the authors of this bill expect law authorities everywhere in Minnesota to be given the right to continually inspect the belongings of citizens in their homes or elsewhere to ensure the terms of the bill are adhered to? Given the level of crime now existing, the majority of citizens who recognize they were born with a right to life and lawfully own firearms are simply not going to comply with this bill given the implications of its terms.

Cost burden of the bill: The money that would have to be spent by firearm owners to comply with this bill would be of no small matter to many of them. Given ever rising prices for food, shelter, and numerous other living necessities, spending budgets for these citizens must necessarily be limited to their basic needs. Expenditures to meet the requirements of this bill are not one of those needs. The further burden here is the person who cannot afford to comply with it is now deemed guilty of a crime.

Unwarranted penalties: Consider the firearms owner who for whatever reason is not in compliance with the locking/storage terms of this bill. That person if confronted with the threat of bodily harm or death may have no other defensive option but to use that firearm which can result in the bodily harm or death of another person or persons. Given the wording of this bill, the firearms owner is now guilty of a felony with severe consequences. There is no justice in that scenario whatsoever.

All things considered, this bill as worded must clearly be rejected.

Thank you, Dennis Anderson