

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Unlawful possession of firearms on school property

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Under current law, it is a felony for a citizen to carry a firearm on school property. Current law makes an exception to the felony penalty for citizens with permits to carry handguns. A permit holder only faces a misdemeanor penalty if he/she unlawfully possesses a firearm on school property. This bill eliminates the permit holder exception and subjects everyone who unlawfully carries a firearm on school property to the same felony penalty. The bill also eliminates the prohibition on law enforcement seeking forfeiture of a permit holder's firearm as a consequence of violating the school gun ban law. The law would continue to allow a permit holder to possess his/her handgun on school property while in a motor vehicle or while storing the firearm in the trunk of a motor vehicle.