

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1833

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As Passed House  
March 11, 1993

**Title:** An act relating to firearm handling by minors.

**Brief Description:** Conforming statutes relating to firearm handling by minors.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Jacobsen and Appelwick.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Judiciary, March 2, 1993, DP;  
Passed House, March 11, 1993, 97-1.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 17 members:  
Representatives Appelwick, Chair; Ludwig, Vice Chair;  
Padden, Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes, Assistant  
Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Chappell; Forner;  
Johanson; Locke; Long; Mastin; H. Myers; Riley; Schmidt;  
Scott; Tate; and Wineberry.

**Staff:** Margaret Allen (786-7191).

**Background:** A current statute, with two exceptions, prohibits a minor under the age of 14 years from possessing or controlling a firearm. Violating this prohibition, or aiding or knowingly permitting a minor to violate the prohibition, is a misdemeanor.

One exception is for a minor accompanied by, or under the immediate charge of, a parent, guardian, or other adult approved by the parent or guardian.

A second exception is for a minor under the supervision of a certified safety instructor at an established gun range or firearm training class.

There is some concern that a second statute may conflict with these exceptions. The second statute makes it a gross misdemeanor to sell, to give, or to permit to be sold or given to anyone under the age of 18 years, a revolver or pistol. For example, the question has been raised whether a parent or safety instructor can legally give a minor

temporary possession of a revolver or pistol for the purpose of firearm safety training.

**Summary of Bill:** The potential conflict is resolved by amending the second statute to include by reference the exceptions in the first statute.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** There is some question whether a parent can legally take a child to a firing range. Adults should be permitted to teach youths how to handle and use handguns safely.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Lupe Barkus, citizen (pro); George A. Shultz, citizen (pro); Merton G. Cooper, citizen (pro); Dave Burgess, Hunter Education Program (pro); and Will Ulry and Ron Lohman, Department of Wildlife Hunter Safety Program (pro).