

13TH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

'04 JUN 30 P9:33

SENATE

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S. No. 659

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Child and Youth Welfare Code, Article 3 provides:

(7) Every child has the right to full opportunities for safe and wholesome recreation and activities, ...

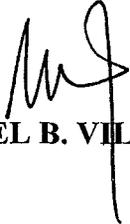
(8) Every child has the right to protection against ... improper influences, hazards, and other conditions or circumstances prejudicial to his physical, mental, emotional, social and moral development;

xxx

The parents or guardian of a person of tender age have the responsibility to ensure his safety, until he reaches the age of majority.

Firearms are regulated by a system of monitoring and licensing. However, they have proliferated in homes and communities, making them easily accessible to a child. Considering that a child has no discernment, his safety depends entirely on the conduct of adults around him.

This bill penalizes the act of making firearms accessible to a child, in order to prevent a child from injuring himself or others with a firearm.

  
MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT TO PREVENT CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO FIREARMS**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Child Firearm Access Prevention Act."
- 2 SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall protect and promote the interests of the
- 3 child by providing him with a conducive and safe environment.
- 4 SECTION 3. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Act, the term:
- 5 (a) "Secure gun storage or safety device" refers to a:
- 6 (1) A device that, when installed on a firearm, prevents the firearm from being operated without
- 7 first deactivating or removing the device;
- 8 (2) A device incorporated into the design of the firearm that prevents the operation of the firearm
- 9 by anyone not having access to the device; or

1 (3) A safe, gun safe, gun case, lock box, or other device that is designed to be or can be used to  
2 store a firearm and that can be unlocked only by means of a key, a combination, other similar  
3 means.

4 (b) "Minor" refers to a person who has not yet attained the age of eighteen (18) years.

5 (c) "Director General" refers to the Director General of the Philippine National Police (PNP), or  
6 to the head of the appropriate body tasked with the monitoring and issuance of licenses for  
7 firearms.

8 SECTION 4. Punishable Acts. - Except as provided in Section 5, any person who --

9 (a) Keeps a loaded firearm, or an unloaded firearm and ammunition for the firearm, within any  
10 premise that is under the custody or control of that person; and

11 (b) Knows, or reasonably should know, that a minor is capable of gaining access to the firearm  
12 without the permission of the parent or legal guardian of the minor,

13 shall, if a minor obtains access to the firearm and thereby causes death or bodily injury to the  
14 minor or to any other person, or exhibits the firearm either in a public place, be imprisoned not  
15 more than 1 year, fined not more than P100,000 or both.

16 SECTION 5. Exceptions. - Section 3 does not apply in the following cases:

17 (a) The person uses a secure gun storage or safety device for the firearm;

1 (b) The person is a peace officer, a member of the Armed Forces, or a member of the Philippine  
2 National Police, with the license to carry and keep the firearm, and the minor obtains the firearm  
3 during, or incidental to, the performance of the official duties of the person in that capacity;

4 (c) The minor obtain, or obtains and discharges, the firearms in a lawful act of self-defense of  
5 one (1) or more other person; or

6 (d) The person has no reasonable expectation, based on objective facts and circumstances, that a  
7 minor is likely to be presented on the premises on which the firearm is kept.

8 SECTION 6. The Director General shall ensure that a copy of this Act appears on the form  
9 required to be obtained by a licensed dealer from a prospective transferee of a firearm.

10 SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or  
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
12 valid and subsisting.

13 SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter  
14 of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the  
15 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

16 SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
17 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.