

I wish to express my concern about section 6 of the first proposed amendment to S.B. 978. The provision requires gun owners to secure their firearms with state approved locking devices, but doesn't specify how the state would determine compliance in situations where an unsecured firearm is recovered by the police. It seems likely that numerous burglars upon finding firearms secured with cable or trigger locks would simply steal the firearms with the locking mechanisms attached and defeat the locks at a later time. Likewise, it's easy to imagine that a curious child, having observed a firearm being periodically unlocked over a period of years, could figure out how to defeat the locking mechanism. In such instances it would be difficult for a conscientious gun owner to establish his innocence in spite of his perfect compliance with the law. This could be particularly problematic in civil lawsuits that the legislation would expose gun owners to since proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt wouldn't be required.

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