# First Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## **PREAMENDED**

This Unofficial Version Includes Committee Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading

LLS NO. 23-0811.02 Jane Ritter x4342

**SENATE BILL 23-169** 

#### SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Mullica and Danielson,

## **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

Duran and Hamrick, Kipp

### **Senate Committees** State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

#### **House Committees**

	A BILL FOR AN ACT
101	CONCERNING INCREASING THE LEGAL AGE FOR CERTAIN CONDUCT
102	RELATED TO A FIREARM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,
103	INCREASING THE LEGAL AGE TO PURCHASE, POSSESS, SELL, OR
104	TRANSFER A FIREARM.

# **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

Current law allows a person who is 18 years of age or older to knowingly possess or purchase a firearm. The bill increases that age requirement to a person who is 21 years of age or older and adds "intentionally" to the mens rea required for a person under 21 years of age to commit the offense of possessing or purchasing a firearm. The bill lists exceptions to the offense.

Under current law, it is a class 4 felony to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly provide, or allow to possess, a firearm, with or without remuneration, to any person under the age of 18 (juvenile). The bill makes it a class 2 misdemeanor to intentionally or knowingly sell or transfer a firearm to a juvenile.

The bill makes conforming amendments.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-101, add 3 (1)(b.7) and (1)(c.5) as follows: 4 18-12-101. Peace officer affirmative defense - definitions. 5 (1) As used in this article 12, unless the context otherwise requires: 6 (b.7) "FIREARM" MEANS ANY WEAPON, INCLUDING A STARTER GUN, 7 THAT CAN, IS DESIGNED TO, OR MAY READILY BE CONVERTED TO EXPEL A 8 PROJECTILE BY THE ACTION OF AN EXPLOSIVE; THE FRAME OR RECEIVER OF 9 A FIREARM; A FIREARM SILENCER; AND A DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE, AS 10 DEFINED IN SECTION 18-9-101. "FIREARM" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ANTIQUE 11 FIREARM, AS DEFINED IN 18 U.S.C. SEC. 921 (a)(16). IN THE CASE OF A 12 LICENSED COLLECTOR, "FIREARM" MEANS ONLY CURIOS AND RELICS. 13 "FIREARM" INCLUDES A WEAPONS PARTS KIT THAT IS DESIGNED TO OR MAY 14 READILY BE COMPLETED, ASSEMBLED, RESTORED, OR OTHERWISE 15 CONVERTED TO EXPEL A PROJECTILE BY THE ACTION OF AN EXPLOSIVE. 16 "FIREARM" DOES NOT INCLUDE A WEAPON, INCLUDING A WEAPON PARTS 17 KIT, IN WHICH THE FRAME OR RECEIVER OF THE FIREARM, AS DEFINED IN 18 SUBSECTION (1)(c.5) OF THIS SECTION, OR THE WEAPON, IS DESTROYED. 19 (c.5) "Frame or receiver of a firearm" means a part of a 20 FIREARM THAT, WHEN THE COMPLETE FIREARM IS ASSEMBLED, IS VISIBLE

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1	FROM THE EXTERIOR AND PROVIDES HOUSING OR A STRUCTURE DESIGNED
2	TO HOLD OR INTEGRATE ONE OR MORE FIRE CONTROL COMPONENTS, EVEN
3	IF PINS OR OTHER ATTACHMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CONNECT THE FIRE
4	CONTROL COMPONENTS. ANY PART OF A FIREARM IMPRINTED WITH A
5	SERIAL NUMBER IS PRESUMED TO BE A FRAME OR RECEIVER OF A FIREARM,
6	UNLESS THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND
7	EXPLOSIVES MAKES AN OFFICIAL DETERMINATION OTHERWISE OR THERE
8	IS OTHER RELIABLE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.
9	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 18-12-108.5
10	as follows:
11	18-12-108.5. Possession, purchase, sale, or transfer of firearms
12	- prohibited - exceptions - penalty. (1) (a) Except as provided in this
13	section, it is unlawful for any person who has not attained the age of
14	eighteen IS NOT TWENTY-ONE years OF AGE OR OLDER TO INTENTIONALLY
15	OR knowingly to have any handgun in such person's possession PURCHASE
16	OR POSSESS ANY FIREARM. THIS SUBSECTION (1)(a) DOES NOT APPLY IF:
17	(I) THE PERSON IS AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, HAS A
18	HUNTER EDUCATION CARD OR CERTIFICATE CERTIFIED BY THE PARKS AND
19	WILDLIFE COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY TITLE 33 OR RULES PROMULGATED
20	BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION, AND PURCHASES OR POSSESSES
21	A FIREARM THAT IS NOT A HANDGUN OR SEMI-AUTOMATIC CENTER FIRE
22	RIFLE; OR
23	(II) THE PERSON IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER BUT LESS
24	THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE AND POSSESSES A HANDGUN OR
25	SEMI-AUTOMATIC CENTER FIRE RIFLE WHILE UNDER THE DIRECT
26	SUPERVISION OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS TWENTY-FIVE
27	YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; OR

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1	(III) THE PERSON IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES
2	ARMED FORCES WHILE ON DUTY AND SERVING IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE
3	POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES; OR
4	(IV) THE PERSON IS A PEACE OFFICER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
5	16-2.5-101, WHILE ON DUTY AND SERVING IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE
6	POLICIES OF THE EMPLOYING AGENCY, AS SET FORTH IN SECTION
7	16-2.5-101 (2).
8	(a.5) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR
9	ANY PERSON TO INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY SELL OR TRANSFER A
10	FIREARM TO A PERSON WHO IS LESS THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE;
11	EXCEPT THAT THIS SUBSECTION $(1)(a.5)$ does not apply if the transfer
12	IS:
13	(I) A BONA FIDE GIFT TO AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS
14	EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER BUT LESS THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS
15	OF AGE; OR
16	(II) TO A PERSON WHO IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE UNITED
17	STATES ARMED FORCES WHILE ON DUTY AND SERVING IN CONFORMANCE
18	WITH THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES; OR
19	(III) To a peace officer, as defined in section 16-2.5-101,
20	WHILE ON DUTY AND SERVING IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE POLICIES OF
21	THE EMPLOYING AGENCY, AS SET FORTH IN SECTION $16-2.5-101$ (2).
22	(b) Any person possessing any handgun in violation of paragraph
23	(a) of this subsection (1) commits the offense of illegal possession of a
24	handgun by a juvenile.
25	(c) (I) Illegal possession of a handgun by a juvenile is a class 2
26	misdemeanor.
27	(II) For any second or subsequent offense, illegal possession of a

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1	handgun by a juvenile is a class 5 felony.
2	(d) A person under the age of eighteen years who is taken into
3	custody by a law enforcement officer for an offense pursuant to this
4	section must be taken into temporary custody in the manner described in
5	section 19-2.5-305.
6	(2) SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF this section shall DOES not apply to:
7	(a) Any A person under the age of eighteen years WHO IS LESS
8	THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE, WITH RESPECT TO A FIREARM OTHER
9	THAN A HANDGUN OR SEMI-AUTOMATIC CENTER FIRE RIFLE, who is:
10	(I) In attendance at a hunter's safety course or a firearms safety
11	course; or
12	(II) Engaging in practice in the use of a firearm or target shooting
13	at an established range authorized by the governing body of the
14	jurisdiction in which such THE range is located or any other area where
15	the discharge of a firearm is not prohibited; or
16	(III) Engaging in an organized competition involving the use of
17	a firearm or participating in or practicing for a performance by an
18	organized group under 501 (c)(3) as determined by the federal internal
19	revenue service which THAT uses firearms as a part of such performance;
20	or
21	(IV) Hunting or trapping pursuant to a valid license issued to such
22	person pursuant to article 4 of title 33; C.R.S.; or
23	(V) HUNTING WITH A VALID HUNTING LICENSE AND IS
24	ACCOMPANIED BY A MENTOR, AS DEFINED BY RULES PROMULGATED BY
25	THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION, AND HAS A HUNTER EDUCATION
26	CARD OR CERTIFICATE CERTIFIED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE
27	COMMISSION, AS REQUIRED BY TITLE 33 OR RULES PROMULGATED BY THE

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1	PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION; OR
2	(VI) PARTICIPATING IN A BONA FIDE SHOOTING CLASS, TRAINING,
3	OR SANCTIONED EVENT, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF CERTIFIED HUNTER
4	EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR OR FIREARMS TRAINING INSTRUCTOR WHO IS
5	TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; OR
6	(V) (VII) Traveling with any handgun in such person's possession
7	being unloaded AN UNLOADED FIREARM to or from any activity described
8	in subparagraph (I), (II), (III), or (IV) of this paragraph (a) SUBSECTION
9	$(2)(a)(I), (2)(a)(II), (2)(a)(III), \underline{(2)(a)(IV), (2)(a)(V), \text{or } (2)(a)(VI)} \text{ of this }$
10	SECTION; OR
11	(b) Any A person under the age of WHO IS LESS THAN eighteen
12	years OF AGE who is on real property under the control of such THE
13	person's parent, legal guardian, or grandparent and who has the
14	permission of such THE person's parent or legal guardian to possess a
15	handgun FIREARM THAT IS NOT A HANDGUN OR SEMI-AUTOMATIC CENTER
16	FIRE RIFLE; OR
17	(c) Any person under the age of eighteen years A PERSON WHO IS
18	LESS THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE who is at such THE person's
19	residence and who, with the permission of such THE person's parent or
20	legal guardian, possesses a handgun FIREARM for the purpose of
21	exercising the rights contained in section 18-1-704 or section 18-1-704.5;
22	OR
23	(d) A PERSON WHO IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES
24	ARMED FORCES.
25	(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) of this section, a handgun
26	FIREARM is "loaded" if:
27	(a) There is a cartridge in the chamber of the handgun FIREARM;

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1	or
2	(b) There is a cartridge in the cylinder of the handgun FIREARM if
3	the handgun FIREARM is a revolver; or
4	(c) The handgun FIREARM, and the ammunition for such handgun
5	THE FIREARM, is carried on the person of a person under the age of
6	eighteen years WHO IS LESS THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE or is in
7	such close proximity to such THE person that such THE person could
8	readily gain access to the handgun FIREARM and the ammunition and load
9	the <del>handgun</del> FIREARM.
10	(4) Repealed.
11	(5) (a) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS
12	SECTION COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF ILLEGAL POSSESSION, PURCHASE, SALE,
13	OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM.
14	(b) (I) Illegal possession, purchase, sale, or transfer of a
15	FIREARM IS A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR.
16	(II) FOR ANY SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, ILLEGAL
17	POSSESSION, PURCHASE, SALE, OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM IS A CLASS 5
18	FELONY.
19	(c) A PERSON WHO IS LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS AGE WHO IS
20	TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR AN OFFENSE
21	PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST BE TAKEN INTO TEMPORARY CUSTODY
22	IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-2.5-305.
23	(6) It is an affirmative defense to the offense of illegal
24	POSSESSION, PURCHASE, SALE, OR TRANSFER OF A FIREARM THAT A PERSON
25	WHO IS LESS THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE GAINED POSSESSION OF
26	AND USED THE FIREARM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXERCISING THE RIGHTS SET
27	FORTH IN SECTION 18-1-704, 18-1-704.5, OR IN DEFENSE OF LIVESTOCK.

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**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 18-12-108.7 as follows:

**18-12-108.7.** Unlawfully providing or permitting a juvenile to possess a firearm - penalty. (1) (a) Any A person who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly provides a handgun FIREARM, with or without remuneration, to any person under the age of eighteen years in violation of section 18-12-108.5 or any person who knows of such juvenile's conduct which THAT violates section 18-12-108.5 and fails to make reasonable efforts to prevent such violation commits the crime of unlawfully providing a handgun to a juvenile or permitting a juvenile to possess a handgun FIREARM.

- (b) Unlawfully providing a handgun to a juvenile or permitting a juvenile to possess a handgun FIREARM in violation of this subsection (1) is a class 4 felony.
- (2) (a) Any A person who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly provides a handgun to a juvenile or permits a juvenile to possess a handgun FIREARM, even though such THE person is aware of a substantial risk that such THE juvenile will use a handgun FIREARM to commit a felony offense, or who, being aware of such substantial risk, fails to make reasonable efforts to prevent the commission of the offense, commits the crime of unlawfully providing or permitting a juvenile to possess a handgun FIREARM. A person shall be deemed to have violated this paragraph (a) if such VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a) IF THE person provides a handgun to or permits the possession of a handgun FIREARM by any A juvenile who has been convicted of a crime of violence, as defined in section 18-1.3-406, or any A juvenile who has been adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for an offense which THAT would constitute a crime

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1	of violence, as defined in section 18-1.3-406, if such THE juvenile were
2	an adult.
3	(b) Unlawfully providing a handgun to a juvenile or permitting a
4	juvenile to possess a handgun FIREARM in violation of this subsection (2)
5	is a class 4 felony.
6	(3) With regard to firearms other than handguns, no person shall
7	sell, rent, or transfer ownership or allow unsupervised possession of a
8	firearm with or without remuneration to any juvenile without the consent
9	of the juvenile's parent or legal guardian. Unlawfully providing a firearm
10	other than a handgun to a juvenile in violation of this subsection (3) is a
11	<del>class 1 misdemeanor.</del>
12	(4) It shall IS not be an offense under this section if a person
13	believes that a juvenile will physically harm the person if the person
14	attempts to disarm the juvenile or prevent the juvenile from committing
15	a violation of section 18-12-108.5.
16	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-108, amend
17	(7) introductory portion and (7)(ww) as follows:
18	<b>18-12-108. Possession of weapons by previous offenders.</b> (7) In
19	addition to a conviction for felony crime as defined in section 24-4.1-302
20	(1), a felony conviction or adjudication for one of the following felonies
21	prohibits a person from possessing, using, or carrying upon his or her THE
22	person a firearm as defined in section 18-1-901 (3)(h) or any other
23	weapon that is subject to this article 12 pursuant to subsection (1) or (3)
24	of this section:
25	(ww) Possession, PURCHASE, SALE, OR TRANSFER of a handgun by
26	a juvenile FIREARM in violation of section 18-12-108.5;
27	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-1-304, amend

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(5.5) as follows:

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19-1-304. Juvenile delinquency records - division of youth services critical incident information - definitions. (5.5) Whenever a petition is filed in juvenile court alleging a class 1, class 2, class 3, or class 4 felony; a level 1, level 2, or level 3 drug felony; an offense involving unlawful sexual behavior as defined in section 16-22-102 (9); a crime of violence as described in section 18-1.3-406; a burglary offense as described in part 2 of article 4 of title 18; felony menacing, in violation of section 18-3-206; harassment, in violation of section 18-9-111; fourth degree arson, in violation of section 18-4-105; aggravated motor vehicle theft, in violation of section 18-4-409; hazing, in violation of section 18-9-124; or possession, PURCHASE, SALE, OR TRANSFER of a handgun by a juvenile FIREARM, in violation of section 18-12-108.5, or when a petition is filed in juvenile court in which the alleged victim of the crime is a student or staff person in the same school as the juvenile or in which it is alleged that the juvenile possessed a deadly weapon during the commission of the alleged crime, the prosecuting attorney, within three working days after the petition is filed, shall make good faith reasonable efforts to notify the principal of the school in which the juvenile is enrolled and shall provide such THE principal with the arrest and criminal records information, as defined in section 24-72-302 (1). In the event the prosecuting attorney, in good faith, is not able to either identify the school that the juvenile attends or contact the principal of the juvenile's school, then the prosecuting attorney shall contact the superintendent of the juvenile's school district.

**SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-2.5-305, **amend** (3)(a)(V) introductory portion and (3)(a)(V)(C) as follows:

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1	19-2.5-305. Detention and shelter - hearing - time limits -
2	findings - review - confinement with adult offenders - restrictions.
3	(3) (a) (V) A court shall not order further detention for a juvenile who is
4	ten years of age and older but less than thirteen years of age unless the
5	juvenile has been arrested or adjudicated for a felony or weapons charge
6	pursuant to section 18-12-102, 18-12-105, 18-12-106, or 18-12-108.5, OR
7	18-12-108.7. The court shall receive any information having probative
8	value regardless of its admissibility under the rules of evidence. In
9	determining whether a juvenile requires detention, the court shall consider
10	the results of the detention screening instrument. There is a rebuttable
11	presumption that a juvenile poses a substantial risk of serious harm to
12	others if:
13	(C) The juvenile is alleged to have committed possessing a
14	dangerous or illegal weapon, as described in section 18-12-102;
15	possession of a defaced firearm, as described in section 18-12-103;
16	unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon, as described in section
17	18-12-105; unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon on school, college,
18	or university grounds, as described in section 18-12-105.5; prohibited use
19	of weapons, as described in section 18-12-106; illegal discharge of a
20	firearm, as described in section 18-12-107.5; or illegal possession,
21	PURCHASE, SALE, OR TRANSFER of a handgun by a juvenile FIREARM, as
22	described in section 18-12-108.5.
23	SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-2.5-502, amend
24	(5)(a) introductory portion as follows:
25	19-2.5-502. Petition initiation - petition form and content.
26	(5) (a) Pursuant to section 19-1-126, in those delinquency proceedings
27	to which the federal "Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978", 25 U.S.C. sec.

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1	1901 et seq., as amended, applies, including but not limited to status
2	offenses such as the illegal possession or consumption of ethyl alcohol or
3	marijuana by an underage person or illegal possession of marijuana
4	paraphernalia by an underage person, as described in section 18-13-122,
5	and possession, PURCHASE, SALE, OR TRANSFER of handguns by juveniles
6	A FIREARM, as described in section 18-12-108.5, the petition must:
7	SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-2.5-1203, amend
8	(5)(b)(VII) and (5)(b)(VIII) as follows:
9	19-2.5-1203. Juvenile parole - hearing panels - definition.
10	(5) (b) Subsection (5)(a) of this section allowing for extension of the
11	period of parole applies to juveniles committed to the department of
12	human services due to an adjudication for one or more of the following
13	offenses:
14	(VII) Felony illegal possession, PURCHASE, SALE, OR TRANSFER of
15	a handgun by a juvenile FIREARM, as described in section 18-12-108.5,
16	that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult;
17	(VIII) Misdemeanor illegal possession, PURCHASE, SALE, OR
18	TRANSFER of a handgun by a juvenile FIREARM, as described in section
19	18-12-108.5, that would constitute a misdemeanor if committed by an
20	adult, if the juvenile Person who is less than twenty-one years of
21	AGE is contemporaneously committed to the department of human
22	services for an offense that would constitute a felony if committed by an
23	adult; or
24	SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-424, amend
25	(3)(b.3)(IX) and (3)(b.3)(X); and <b>repeal</b> (3)(b.3)(XI) as follows:
26	24-33.5-424. National instant criminal background check
2.7	system - state point of contact - fee - grounds for denial of firearm

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1	transfer - appeal - rule-making - unlawful acts - instant criminal
2	background check cash fund - creation. (3) (b.3) In addition to the
3	grounds for denial specified in subsections (3)(a) and (3)(b) of this
4	section, the bureau shall deny a transfer of a firearm if the prospective
5	transferee has been convicted of any of the following offenses committed
6	on or after June 19, 2021, if the offense is classified as a misdemeanor,
7	or if the prospective transferee has been convicted in another state or
8	jurisdiction, including a military or federal jurisdiction, of an offense that,
9	if committed in Colorado, would constitute any of the following offenses
10	classified as a misdemeanor offense, within five years prior to the
11	transfer:
12	(IX) Cruelty to animals, as described in section 18-9-202 (1)(a)
13	and (1.5); OR
14	(X) Possession of an illegal weapon, as described in section
15	18-12-102 (4). <del>or</del>
16	(XI) Unlawfully providing a firearm other than a handgun to a
17	juvenile, as described in section 18-12-108.7 (3).
18	SECTION 10. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
19	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
20	preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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