

**House File 2439 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2439

BY MADISON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to trigger locks for firearms, including the  
2 establishment of a public safety trigger lock fund and  
3 requiring trigger locks on certain firearms, and providing  
4 penalties.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 80.49 Public safety trigger lock  
2 fund.

3 1. A public safety trigger lock fund is established in  
4 the state treasury under the control of the department. The  
5 department may receive and accept donations, grants, loans, and  
6 contributions from any public or private source for deposit  
7 into the fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the  
8 department for the purposes set forth in subsection 2.

9 2. The department shall establish a trigger lock program  
10 in the state for the purpose of providing free trigger locks  
11 to firearms owners. The department shall work with law  
12 enforcement agencies of the state, local governments, and other  
13 local entities and nonprofit organizations to provide trigger  
14 locks at no cost to firearms owners in the state.

15 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund  
16 that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a  
17 fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for  
18 expenditure for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding  
19 section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in  
20 the fund shall be credited to the fund.

21 Sec. 2. Section 724.22, subsection 7, Code 2024, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 7. ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to~~ A person shall  
24 not store or leave a loaded or unloaded firearm ~~which~~ that is  
25 not secured by a trigger lock mechanism, placed in a securely  
26 locked box or container, or placed in some other location ~~which~~  
27 that a reasonable person would believe to be secure from a  
28 minor under the age of ~~fourteen~~ eighteen years, if such person  
29 knows or has reason to believe that a minor under the age  
30 of ~~fourteen~~ eighteen years is likely to gain access to the  
31 firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parent,  
32 guardian, or person having charge of the minor, and the minor  
33 lawfully gains access to the firearm without the consent of  
34 the minor's parent, guardian, or person having charge of the  
35 minor, ~~and the minor exhibits the firearm in a public place in~~

1 ~~an unlawful manner, or uses the firearm unlawfully to cause~~  
2 ~~injury or death to a person.~~ This subsection does not apply if  
3 the minor obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry  
4 by any person. A violation of this subsection is punishable as  
5 a serious misdemeanor.

6

EXPLANATION

7

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

8

9 This bill relates to trigger locks for firearms, including  
10 the establishment of a public safety trigger lock fund and  
11 requiring trigger locks on certain firearms.

12 The bill establishes a public safety trigger lock fund  
13 in the state treasury under the control of the department of  
14 public safety (department). The department may receive and  
15 accept donations, grants, loans, and contributions from any  
16 public or private source for deposit into the trust fund for  
17 the purpose of providing free trigger locks to firearms owners.  
18 The department shall work with law enforcement agencies of  
19 the state, local governments, and other local entities and  
20 nonprofit organizations to provide trigger locks at no cost to  
21 firearms owners in the state.

22 Current law prohibits any person from storing or leaving  
23 a loaded firearm which is not secured by a trigger lock  
24 mechanism, placed in a securely locked box or container, or  
25 placed in some other location which a reasonable person would  
26 believe to be secure from a minor under the age of 14 years, if  
27 such person knows or has reason to believe that a minor under  
28 the age of 14 years is likely to gain access to the firearm, the  
29 minor lawfully gains access to the firearm without the consent  
30 of the minor's parent, guardian, or person having charge of the  
31 minor, and the minor exhibits the firearm in a public place in  
32 an unlawful manner, or uses the firearm unlawfully to cause  
33 injury or death to a person.

34 The bill prohibits any person from storing or leaving a  
35 loaded or unloaded firearm that is not secured by a trigger

1 lock mechanism, placed in a securely locked box or container,  
2 or placed in some other location that a reasonable person would  
3 believe to be secure from a minor under the age of 18 years, if  
4 such person knows or has reason to believe that a minor under  
5 the age of 18 years is likely to gain access to the firearm  
6 without the lawful permission of the minor's parent, guardian,  
7 or person having charge of the minor, and the minor lawfully  
8 gains access to the firearm without the consent of the minor's  
9 parent, guardian, or person having charge of the minor.

10 A violation of the bill is punishable as a serious  
11 misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by  
12 confinement for no more than one year and a fine of at least  
13 \$430 but not more than \$2,560.