A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT
relating to creating the criminal offense of failure to safely store a firearm.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 46, Penal Code, is amended by adding Section 46.131 to read as follows:

Sec. 46.131. FAILURE TO SAFELY STORE FIREARM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Readily dischargeable firearm" has the meaning assigned by Section 46.13.

(2) "Secure firearm storage device" means a gun safe, gun case, gun cabinet, or other device that is similarly designed to be:

(A) used to store a firearm; and

(B) unlocked only by use of a key or combination or by other similar means.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person stores a readily dischargeable firearm owned by the person in a place other than a secure firearm storage device that is locked.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d) If conduct constituting an offense under this section also constitutes an offense under another law, the actor may be prosecuted under this section, the other law, or both.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.