

By: Meza

H.B. No. 185

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to creating the criminal offense of failure to safely  
3 store a firearm.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (A) used to store a firearm; and

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

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

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

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

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