

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Judiciary B

## HOUSE BILL NO. 66

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-37-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE SALE OF WEAPONS TO MINORS SHALL BE A FELONY;  
3 TO PROVIDE FOR A FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS  
4 ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 97-37-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
5 PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR MINORS WHO POSSESS WEAPONS ILLEGALLY; AND  
6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 SECTION 1. Section 97-37-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 97-37-13. (1) It shall not be lawful for any person to  
11 sell, give or lend to any \* \* \* person intoxicated, knowing him to  
12 be \* \* \* in a state of intoxication, any deadly weapon, or other  
13 weapon the carrying of which concealed is prohibited, or pistol  
14 cartridge; and, on conviction thereof, he shall be punished by a  
15 fine not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisoned  
16 in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or both.

17 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, give or  
18 lend to any minor, knowing such person to be a minor, any deadly  
19 weapon, or other weapon the carrying of which concealed is  
20 prohibited, or pistol cartridge; and on conviction thereof, he  
21 shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by a fine of not  
22 less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and imprisonment not  
23 less than five (5) years in the State Penitentiary.

24 SECTION 2. Section 97-37-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
25 amended as follows:

26 97-37-14. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
27 it is an act of delinquency for any person who has not attained  
28 the age of eighteen (18) years knowingly to have any handgun or

29 other firearm in such person's possession.

30 (2) This section shall not apply to:

31 (a) Any person who is:

32 (i) In attendance at a hunter's safety course or a  
33 firearms safety course; or

34 (ii) Engaging in practice in the use of a firearm  
35 or target shooting at an established range authorized by the  
36 governing body of the jurisdiction in which such range is located  
37 or any other area where the discharge of a firearm is not  
38 prohibited; or

39 (iii) Engaging in an organized competition  
40 involving the use of a firearm, or participating in or practicing  
41 for a performance by an organized group under 501(c)(3) as  
42 determined by the federal internal revenue service which uses  
43 firearms as a part of such performance; or

44 (iv) Hunting or trapping pursuant to a valid  
45 license issued to such person by the Department of Wildlife,  
46 Fisheries and Parks or as otherwise allowed by law; or

47 (v) Traveling with any handgun in such person's  
48 possession being unloaded to or from any activity described in  
49 subparagraph (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) of this paragraph (a) and  
50 paragraph (b).

51 (b) Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years who  
52 is on real property under the control of an adult and who has the  
53 permission of such adult to possess a handgun.

54 (3) This section shall not apply to any person who uses a  
55 handgun or other firearm to lawfully defend himself from imminent  
56 danger at his home or place of domicile and any such person shall  
57 not be held criminally liable for such use of a handgun or other  
58 firearm.

59 (4) For the purposes of this section, "handgun" means a  
60 pistol, revolver or other firearm of any description, loaded or  
61 unloaded, from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be  
62 discharged, the length of the barrel of which, not including any  
63 revolving, detachable or magazine breech, is less than sixteen  
64 (16) inches.

65 (5) Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years who

66 violates this section, upon conviction, shall perform two hundred  
67 (200) hours of community service within one (1) year, shall have  
68 his or her driver's license suspended for one (1) year and shall  
69 be fined up to Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). For a second  
70 or subsequent offense such person shall have his or her driver's  
71 license suspended until they reach the age of eighteen (18) years  
72 and shall pay a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

73 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
74 and after its passage.