

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2896

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-37-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT IT SHALL BE AN ACT OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY TO  
3 POSSESS A HANDGUN FOR PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS WITH  
4 CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-37-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 97-37-14. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,  
9 it is an act of delinquency for any person who has not attained  
10 the age of twenty-one (21) years knowingly to have any handgun in  
11 such person's possession.

12 (2) This section shall not apply to:

13 (a) Any person who is:

14 (i) In attendance at a hunter's safety course or a  
15 firearms safety course; or

16 (ii) Engaging in practice in the use of a firearm  
17 or target shooting at an established range authorized by the  
18 governing body of the jurisdiction in which such range is located  
19 or any other area where the discharge of a firearm is not  
20 prohibited; or

21 (iii) Engaging in an organized competition  
22 involving the use of a firearm, or participating in or practicing  
23 for a performance by an organized group under 501(c)(3) as  
24 determined by the federal Internal Revenue Service which uses  
25 firearms as a part of such performance; or

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

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

33                   (b) Any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years  
34 who is on real property under the control of an adult and who has  
35 the permission of such adult to possess a handgun.

36                   (3) This section shall not apply to any person who uses a  
37 handgun or other firearm to lawfully defend himself from imminent  
38 danger at his home or place of domicile and any such person shall  
39 not be held criminally liable for such use of a handgun or other  
40 firearm.

41                   (4) For the purposes of this section, "handgun" means a  
42 pistol, revolver or other firearm of any description, loaded or  
43 unloaded, from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be  
44 discharged, the length of the barrel of which, not including any  
45 revolving, detachable or magazine breech, is less than sixteen  
46 (16) inches.

47                   **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
48 and after July 1, 2005.