

By: Representative Robinson (63rd)

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 975

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-37-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE AGE FOR AN ACT OF DELINQUENCY REGARDING HANDGUN
3 POSSESSION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 97-37-14. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
8 it is an act of delinquency for any person who has not attained
9 the age of twenty-one (21) years knowingly to have any handgun in
10 such person's possession.

11 (2) This section shall not apply to:

12 (a) Any person who is:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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