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H.566

Introduced by Representatives Cole of Burlington, Berry of Manchester,
Bissonnette of Winooski, Burke of Brattleboro, Clarkson of
Woodstock, Donovan of Burlington, Fields of Bennington,
Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Gonzalez of Winooski,
Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Lucke of
Hartford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston,
Miller of Shaftsbury, Mrowicki of Putney, O’Sullivan of
Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington,
Ram of Burlington, Ryerson of Randolph, Stevens of
Waterbury, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Walz of
Barre City, Wright of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; City of Burlington;
amendment; firearms; safe storage depository; locking device

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve an
amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington that would require that
when a firearm is not in a person’s immediate possession or control, it must be
locked in a safe storage depository or, by using a locking device, rendered
incapable of being fired.

1 An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of
2 Burlington requiring firearms to be locked in safe storage depositories or
3 placed in locking devices

4 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

5 Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

6 The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the City
7 of Burlington as set forth in this act. Proposals of amendment were approved
8 by the voters on March 4, 2014.

9 Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 3 is amended to read:

10 CHAPTER 3. CITY OF BURLINGTON

11 * * *

12 ARTICLE 99. GENERAL WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS

13 §§ 511–512. [Reserved.]

14 § 513. SAFE STORAGE

15 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §§ 2291(8) and 2295, the
16 City of Burlington is authorized to regulate the possession and carrying of
17 firearms as set forth in this section.

18 (b) Within the City of Burlington, a person who possesses a firearm, as
19 defined in 13 V.S.A. § 4016, shall not store or otherwise leave the firearm
20 outside his or her immediate possession or control without having first securely
21 locked the firearm in an appropriate safe storage depository or, by use of a gun
22 locking device appropriate to that weapon, rendered it incapable of being fired.

1 (c) As used in this section, “safe storage depository” shall mean a safe or
2 other secure container which, when locked, is incapable of being opened
3 without the key, combination, or other unlocking mechanism so as to prevent
4 an unauthorized person from obtaining access to the weapon.

5 (d) The penalties for any violation of this section shall be as follows:

6 (1) a criminal offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$2,500.00
7 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both; or

8 (2) a civil ordinance violation punishable by a fine of not less than
9 \$200.00 and not more than \$500.00.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.