

CHAPTER 439

(Senate Bill 43)

AN ACT concerning

**Firearms – Access by Minors**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting ~~persons~~ a person from storing or leaving ~~unsecured a~~ loaded firearms where an unsupervised minor is likely to obtain access; requiring ~~firearms dealers to post certain warnings~~ firearm in any location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would gain access; establishing certain penalties for violations of this Act; providing certain exceptions to the application of this Act; ~~establishing that a violation of this Act may not be considered evidence of negligence or contributory negligence, limit certain liability, or diminish recovery for certain damages; prohibiting certain persons from making reference to a violation of this Act during certain trials;~~ establishing that a violation of this Act may not be considered evidence of negligence or contributory negligence, limit certain liability, or diminish recovery for certain damages in a civil action for damages; prohibiting certain persons from making reference to a violation of this Act during certain trials; requiring a court to order separate trials for joint tort feasons or defendants in a civil action under certain circumstances; and generally relating to access to firearms by minors.

BY adding to

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

Section 36K

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments**

36K.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) (I) "FIREARM" MEANS A PISTOL, REVOLVER, RIFLE, SHOTGUN, SHORT-BARRELED RIFLE, SHORT-BARRELED SHOTGUN, OR ANY OTHER FIREARM.

(II) "FIREARM" DOES NOT INCLUDE ANTIQUE FIREARMS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 36F OF THIS ARTICLE.

(3) "MINOR" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE AGE OF ~~18~~ 16.