

# SENATE BILL 362

E1  
SB 1031/25 – JPR

6lr1318

By: Senator Attar

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

## 1 AN ACT concerning

## **Criminal Law – Child’s Access to Firearms – Penalty (Ny’Kala Strawder Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the penalty for storing or leaving a loaded firearm in a location  
5 where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor has access  
6 to the firearm; and generally relating to firearms offenses.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Criminal Law  
9 Section 4–104  
0 Annotated Code of Maryland  
1 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

## Article – Criminal Law

15 4-104.

## Article – Criminal Law

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) "Ammunition" means a cartridge, shell, or other device containing  
18 explosive or incendiary material designed and intended for use in a firearm.

(3) (i) "Firearm" means a handgun, rifle, shotgun, short-barreled rifle, or short-barreled shotgun, as those terms are defined in § 4–201 of this title, or any other firearm.

(ii) "Firearm" does not include an antique firearm as defined in § 4-201 of this title.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) This section does not apply if:

(1) the minor's access to a firearm is supervised by an individual at least ;

(2) the minor's access to a firearm was obtained as a result of an unlawful

(3) the firearm is in the possession or control of a law enforcement officer  
officer is engaged in official duties; or

(4) the minor has a certificate of firearm and hunter safety issued under § the Natural Resources Article.

(c) A person may not store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person or should have known that an unsupervised minor has access to the firearm.

(d) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction subject to **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS OR** a fine not exceeding \$1,000 **OTH.**

(e) (1) A violation of this section may not:

(i) be considered evidence of negligence;

(ii) be considered evidence of contributory negligence;

(iii) limit liability of a party or an insurer; or

(iv) diminish recovery for damages arising

operation of a firearm or ammunition.

21 (2) A party, witness, or lawyer may not refer to a violation of this section  
22 during a trial of a civil action that involves property damage, personal injury, or death.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2026.