



CT General Assembly 2019 Gun Bill Vote Counts

		House		Senate		Total	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
HB-7218	Safe Storage at Home	127	16	34	2	161	18
HB-7219	Ghost Guns	103	36	28	7	131	43
HB-7223	Safe Storage in Vehicles	98	48	20	15	118	63

## **H.B. 7218, An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home**

Expands the conditions under which firearms must be securely stored in the home to include unloaded firearms (currently only loaded firearms are covered) and applies it to homes with minors aged 16 and 17 (currently only 15 and younger).<sup>1</sup>

**BENEFIT:** By restricting access to firearms by unauthorized users and prohibited individuals the stricter requirements will prevent unintentional shootings, firearm suicide by individuals other than the gun owner, and school and other mass shootings. Among children and teens who die by firearm suicide, 80% use a gun belonging to a family member. In 75% of cases, guns used in school shootings came from the shooter's home or that of a relative.

## **H.B. 7223, An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle**

Prohibits the unsecured storage of handguns in unattended vehicles.

**BENEFIT:** By restricting access to firearms by unauthorized users and prohibited individuals the prohibition will prevent gun theft from motor vehicles and unintentional shootings. Most firearms recovered from crime scenes are stolen.

## **H.B. 7219, An Act Concerning Ghost Guns**

Bans firearms without serial numbers and regulates so-called "ghost guns" the same as Connecticut regulates other firearms. Untraceable ghost guns without serial numbers are made from kits that allow assembly of guns at home or using 3D plastic printers without requiring a background check and permit. Without a serial number, there is no way to trace guns used in crimes back to their owners.

**BENEFIT:** Will prevent firearms from getting in the hands of dangerous individuals not permitted by law to possess a firearm. Prevents the manufacture of untraceable guns that are sold illegally to criminals and other prohibited persons. Prevents the manufacture of guns undetectable by metal detectors.

*See reverse for facts about lax firearm storage and "DIY" ghost guns.*

<sup>1</sup> Note: under current statute, in addition to the safe storage provision covering minors under age 16, loaded firearms must also be securely stored if a) a resident in the home is ineligible to possess firearms under state or federal law or b) a resident poses a risk of imminent personal injury to himself or to other individuals.

## Facts about Firearm Safe Storage

- Every day, eight children are unintentionally shot or killed by a gun.<sup>2</sup> Securely stored firearms—whether loaded or not—would prevent most of these tragedies.
- Ethan Song, a 15-year old from Guilford, was killed in 2018 when he got access to an unsecured handgun at a friend’s house. Instead of securely storing his weapon, the friend’s father stored his guns in a closet, in the same location as the ammunition and key to the gun’s trigger lock. The father wasn’t charged because it couldn’t be proved that the handgun was loaded when the teens gained access to it.
- With current technology, secured guns are easily accessible when need for self-defense. Keyless locks and fingerprint readers allow these gun safes to be opened in seconds.
- Research by the American Academy of Pediatrics shows where gun laws are strictest half as many children die from firearms. Studies show that child access prevention laws, and safe storage in general, reduce the risk of adolescent suicide. One found that keeping a gun locked lowers the risk of both unintentional injury and suicide for children and teenagers by 73%.
- On average, a gun is stolen in the U.S. every two minutes<sup>3</sup>. It’s estimated that from 2012-15 more than 2,600 firearms were stolen in Connecticut.<sup>4</sup> Evidence suggests that most gun thefts are from owners who leave them unsecured in unlocked homes or cars<sup>5</sup>. Studies show that most guns recovered from crime scenes were stolen.<sup>6,7</sup> Requiring handguns to be secured in unattended vehicles will choke off a key source of crime guns.
- In more than 80% of teen suicides, the gun used belonged to a family member. In 75% of cases, guns used in school shootings came from the shooter’s home or that of a relative.<sup>8</sup>

## Facts about Ghost Guns

- Ghost guns have been used in mass shootings, in attacks on law enforcement and have been seized in criminal investigations, including here in CT (see below).
- In 2017 a California man prohibited from possessing firearms made high-powered rifles and in a shooting spree killed four and injured 10, including seven children injured at their school. In 2016 a man used a homemade AR-15 style assault weapon to shoot at four police officers.<sup>9</sup>
- In April a Bridgeport man was sentenced for trafficking AK-47-style and AR-style machine guns, suppressors, and other firearms made by a co-worker in his basement workshop in Torrington. The man’s son sold some of the machine guns to convicted felons in the Bridgeport area. All three men have pled guilty.<sup>10</sup>
- In January 2019 a Southington man was convicted for selling a ghost gun on armslist.com, advertising it as “No serial. Completed from 80 lower. No paperwork.”<sup>11</sup>
- In November 2018 a Willimantic teen was arrested<sup>12</sup> for selling AR-15 style firearms, which he had built himself after ordering parts on the internet, to an undercover ATF agent. He told the agent that demand was so high, he couldn’t keep up. The teen pled guilty in April, 2019 and faces up to five years in prison<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> [Key Gun Violence Statistics](#), Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

<sup>3</sup> [Stolen Guns in America](#), Center for American Progress, Jul 25, 2017

<sup>4</sup> [Stolen Guns in America](#), Center for American Progress, Jul 25, 2017

<sup>5</sup> [Stolen Guns in America](#), Center for American Progress, Jul 25, 2017

<sup>6</sup> [Study confirms what gun rights advocates have said for a long time about crime](#), Miami Herald, Jul 27, 2016

<sup>7</sup> [Missing Pieces](#), The Trace, Nov 20, 2017

<sup>8</sup> Most Guns Used in School Shootings Come From Home, Wall Street Journal, Apr 5, 2018

<sup>9</sup> Shooting rampage in California highlights "ghost guns" and their dangers, [CBS News](#), Nov 16, 2017

<sup>10</sup> Bridgeport Man Sentenced for Trafficking Homemade Machine Guns, [U.S. Attorney's Office](#), District of CT, Apr 16, 2019

<sup>11</sup> Southington man who tried to sell homemade rifle online sentenced to 18 mos, [myrecordjournal.com](#), Jan 28, 2019

<sup>12</sup> ‘Ghost’ gun seller appears in court, [Republican-American](#), Nov 27, 2018

<sup>13</sup> Willimantic Teen Admits Illegally Manufacturing and Selling Firearms, [U.S. Attorney's Office](#), District of CT, Apr 16, 2019