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Representatives Casello and Daley File Legislation to Improve Firearm Storage in Vehicles

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - State Representatives Joe Casello (D-Boynton Beach) and Dan Daley (D-Coral Springs) have filed [House Bill 1087](#) focused on enhancing the safety measures for firearm storage in motor vehicles and vessels.

If passed, the bill will mandate secure storage of firearms and ammunition in motor vehicles or vessels when the owner is absent. It clearly outlines acceptable storage locations, such as locked trunks or containers, while excluding easily accessible areas like vehicle beds or compartments with windows.

Representative Casello stated, “This bill represents a practical step towards increasing personal responsibility. It's about ensuring that firearms are securely stored in vehicles, balancing personal rights with community safety.”

“According to crime data from the FBI, a gun is stolen from a vehicle every fifteen minutes. Gun owners who do not safely secure and store their firearms are simply more likely to have a firearm stolen. As a responsible gun owner myself, I’m proud to work with Representative Casello on this common sense legislation. If you’re going to keep your gun in your car or vessel, certain precautions are imperative,” said **Representative Daley**.

Key points of **HB 1087** include:

1. Definitions for 'motor vehicle' and 'vessel' and secure storage areas.
2. Requirement for firearms to be locked away from plain view.
3. Classifying non-compliance as a misdemeanor of the second degree.
4. This legislation aims to address the rising concern over firearms theft from vehicles, promoting safer handling and storage practices.

“When guns aren’t properly stored, tragedy can strike – whether it’s a child finding a firearm and injuring or killing themselves, or someone stealing it and using it to commit a crime. Secure gun storage in cars can prevent both,” said **Katie Hathaway, volunteer with the Moms Demand Action Florida chapter**. “Policymakers, and local leaders have a responsibility to build public awareness and implement laws for secure storage in cars, especially at a time when gun thefts from cars are at an all-time high, and carry the

additional risk of fueling future violence.”

If passed, this proposal would take effect upon being signed into law. Florida’s 2024 legislative session is set to begin on January 9, 2024.

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