

**From:** [Peel, Jackson](#)  
**To:** [Press](#)  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Representative Joy Goff-Marcil and Senator Victor Torres File Legislation to Protect Public Safety and Gun Shop Owners  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:46:02 PM

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 3, 2021

**CONTACT**

Mahdi Kassam

Office of Representative Joy Goff-Marcil

[Mahdi.Kassam@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Mahdi.Kassam@myfloridahouse.gov)

(850) 717-5030

**Representative Joy Goff-Marcil and Senator Victor Torres File Legislation to Protect Public Safety and Gun Shop Owners**

**Tallahassee, FL**— Recently, **Senator Victor Torres (D- Kissimmee)** and **Representative Joy Goff-Marcil (D- Maitland)** filed [SB 966](#) and [HB 555](#), aimed at safely securing and storing firearms by licensed importers, manufacturers, and dealers to protect both gun show owners and public safety.

“In the aftermath of the economic anxiety and public safety concerns of 2020, Florida saw an influx of thousands of gun store robberies in the past year. It’s my hope that we can mitigate this serious breach of safety and protect responsible gun show owners in the process,” said **Representative Goff-Marcil**. “By safely securing arms at night, we reduce the liability for responsible gun shop owners, improve public safety, and benefit Floridians across the board.”

Between 2019-2020, hundreds of firearms were stolen from gun shop owners and manufacturers, a meaningful increase from 2018. This legislation will create a system and mechanism that helps and protects the gun shop owners as well as their inventory, reducing the insurance and loss prevention cost for these responsible dealers and manufacturers. Subsequently, this act would reduce the number of stolen, unaccountable guns in Florida and across nearby state-lines, a historically significant contributor to firearm-related crimes.

“By making this change in safe storage laws, we will support gun owners, sellers and public safety, reducing the costs to the manufacturers, insurers, and local police departments who can then prioritize their limited resources for more meaningful services. I’m confident that by re-filing this bill for the 2021 Session, bipartisan support can be reached on a common-sense issue that helps improve the lives and safety for all Floridians,” stated **Senator Torres**.

This legislation was originally filed in both the House and the Senate this past 2020 Session. If approved this year, this bill would not add any barriers or regulations on purchasing guns, but will ensure that guns are secure from nighttime burglars, looters, and other criminal behavior that would rob licensed gun sellers, to the detriment of the seller, the community, and law and order. In addition, this would not in any way affect private sellers, gun shows sales, or any purchasing.

###