A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT TO SECURELY STORE A FIREARM IN A VEHICLE.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill prohibits knowingly leaving a firearm in an unattended vehicle unless the firearm is stored in a locked hard-sided container that is not left in plain view or that is in the locked trunk of the vehicle. Unsafe storage of a firearm in a vehicle is a civil infraction, punishable by a maximum $500 fine.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment. Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law. Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 18-12-114.5 as follows:

18-12-114.5. Secure firearm storage in a vehicle - penalty - definition. (1) (a) A person shall not knowingly leave a firearm in an unattended vehicle unless the firearm is stored in any of the following:

(I) A locked hard-sided container that is placed out of plain view, including a container that is permanently affixed to the vehicle's interior and not in plain view; or

(II) A locked hard-sided container that is in the locked trunk of the vehicle.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (1), a glove compartment or the center console of a vehicle is not a locked hard-sided container.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits unlawful storage of a firearm in a vehicle. Unlawful storage of a firearm in a vehicle is a civil infraction and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of no more than five hundred dollars.

(3) This section does not apply to:

(a) Storing an antique firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. sec. 921 (a)(16), as amended;

(b) A peace officer acting within the scope of the officer's duties; and

(c) A person engaged in lawful hunting activities.
(4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
REQUIRES, "VEHICLE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION
42-1-102.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-105.6, amend
(2)(a) as follows:

18-12-105.6. Limitation on local ordinances regarding
firearms in private vehicles. (2) (a) Based on the findings specified in
subsection (1) of this section, the general assembly concludes that the
carrying of weapons in private automobiles or other private means of
conveyance for hunting or for lawful protection of a person's or another's
person or property while traveling into, through, or within a municipal,
county, or city and county jurisdiction, regardless of the number of times
the person stops in a jurisdiction, is a matter of statewide concern and,
EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-114.5, is not an offense.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-214, amend
(3)(a) as follows:

18-12-214. Authority granted by permit - carrying restrictions
- local authority. (3) A permit issued pursuant to this part 2 does not
authorize a person to carry a concealed handgun onto the real property,
or into any improvements erected thereon, of a public elementary, middle,
junior high, or high school; except that:

(a) A permittee may have a handgun on the real property of the
public school so long as the handgun remains in his or her THE
PERMITTEE'S vehicle and, if the permittee is not in the vehicle, the
handgun is in a compartment within the vehicle and the vehicle is locked
LEAVES THE VEHICLE UNATTENDED, THE PERMITTEE STORES THE FIREARM
PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-12-114.5;
SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-12-405, **amend**
(2) as follows:

**18-12-405. Locking device required - penalty.** (2) Every licensed gun dealer shall post, in a conspicuous location on its premises and at any other location at which the dealer sells a firearm, either the notice developed as part of the firearms safe storage education campaign described in section 25-1-131 (2) or the following notice, in writing, on a printed card, with each letter at a minimum of one inch in height:

NOTICE

Unlawful storage of a firearm, **INCLUDING IN A VEHICLE,** may result in imprisonment or fine.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1-131, **amend**
(1)(a)(I) and (2) as follows:

**25-1-131. Firearms safe storage education campaign.**
(1) (a) The office of suicide prevention within the department shall include on a public page of the department's website information about the following:

(I) The unlawful storage of a firearm offense described in section 18-12-114 AND THE UNLAWFUL STORAGE OF A FIREARM IN A VEHICLE OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-114.5;

(2) The department shall develop a notice intended to be displayed on the premises of a licensed gun dealer, and designed to be printed with each letter at a minimum of one inch in height, that informs firearms purchasers that unlawful storage of a firearm, **INCLUDING IN A VEHICLE,** may result in imprisonment or fine. The department shall make electronic copies of the notice publicly available for download from its website without charge.
SECTION 6. Effective date - applicability. This act takes effect January 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after said date.

SECTION 7. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.