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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 7223

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE STORAGE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER IN A MOTOR VEHICLE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes it a class D felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, up to a \$5,000 fine, or both, to store or keep a pistol or revolver (i.e., a handgun) in an unattended motor vehicle if the firearm is not in a securely locked safe.

For the bill's purposes, a motor vehicle is unattended if no one who is at least age 21 and who is the owner, operator, or a passenger of the vehicle is inside the vehicle or in close enough proximity to prevent unauthorized access to the vehicle.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Handguns in Vehicles***

By law, a person generally must have a permit to carry a handgun in Connecticut, including in a motor vehicle. A person may transport a handgun in a vehicle without a permit if it is unloaded, not readily or directly accessible from the passenger compartment or, if the vehicle does not have a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, it is in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console, and the person is:

1. carrying the handgun home from the place of sale in its original packaging;
2. moving his or her household goods from one place to another;
3. transporting the handgun to or from a repair;

4. transporting the handgun in or through the state for competitions, formal training, repair, or any meeting or exhibition of an organized collectors' group if the person is a U.S. resident and has a handgun permit from where he or she resides;
5. transporting the handgun to and from a testing range at the request of the issuing authority; or
6. transporting an antique handgun (CGS § 29-35).

A violation of this law is a class D felony with a mandatory minimum one-year sentence in the absence of mitigating circumstances. Any handgun found in the violator's possession must be forfeited (CGS § 29-37). Additionally, it is generally a class D felony for an individual to knowingly have in his or her motor vehicle a handgun without the proper permit (CGS § 29-38).

### ***Interstate Transportation of Firearms***

The law allows the interstate transportation of firearms without a permit through Connecticut in accordance with federal law and for lawful purposes if the individual (1) is not otherwise prohibited from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing firearms and (2) is transporting them between states where they can legally possess and carry them. The guns must be kept unloaded and the guns and any ammunition cannot be readily or directly accessible from the passenger compartment. If the vehicle does not have separate compartments, the guns and any ammunition must be in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console (CGS § 29-38d).

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25    Nay 13    (03/20/2019)