



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

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**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 1

Bill #:AF-08

1 **Sponsors:** Nicole Bolotova, Michael Rice, Mariam Sheikh

2 **An Act To:** Amend § 265.05 of the New York State Penal Law, to make it illegal for  
3 persons under the age of sixteen to load and fire a firearm at a gun range in the  
4 state of New York

5 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

6 **Purpose:** The purpose of our bill is to make sure no children under the age of 16  
7 will be allowed to load and fire a weapon at a gun range. Almost every day,  
8 someone gets hurt or seriously injured at a gun range. At the same time, these kids  
9 are learning how to use these deadly firearms at a very young and impressionable  
10 age. With the passage of our bill we hope to save as many lives as possible without  
11 making gun laws for adults even stricter than they have to be.

12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1: Definitions:**

14 **Adjutant:** A military officer who acts as an administrative assistant to a senior  
15 officer.

16 **Section 2:**

17 S 265.05 Unlawful possession of weapons by persons under sixteen.

18 It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of sixteen to load and fire a  
19 firearm at a gun range until after their sixteenth birthday, possess any air-gun,  
20 spring-gun or other instrument or weapon in which the propelling force is a spring  
21 or air, or any gun or any instrument or weapon in or upon which any loaded or  
22 blank cartridges may be used, or any loaded or blank cartridges or ammunition  
23 therefor, or any dangerous

24 Knife; provided that the possession of rifle or shotgun or ammunition therefor by  
25 the holder of a hunting license or permit issued pursuant to article eleven of the  
26 environmental conservation law and used in accordance with said law shall not be  
27 governed by this section. A person who violates the provisions of this section,  
28 exempt from illegal usage of a firearm at a gun range before the age of sixteen,  
29 shall be adjudged a juvenile delinquent.

30 **Justification:** New York State has some of the strictest gun laws in the country.  
31 However, almost no state, other than Connecticut, has any minimum age  
32 preventing children from attending gun ranges. Many organizations have this  
33 similar outlook on this issue, but nothing is being done due to the argument of  
34 restricting one's right to bear arms. Even if a child has adult supervision, they are  
35 still physically unable to handle usage of a gun. The passage of our bill will  
36 hopefully lower violent usage of firearms amongst younger demographics. It is  
37 statistically proven that kids, who are not exposed to that kind of weaponry at a  
38 young age, are extremely less violent as they develop. By taking away the privilege  
39 of using glorified killing machines from these untrained, unfiltered children, it is  
40 almost guaranteed to slow down violent deaths and tragic accidents.

41 **Fiscal Implications:** Our bill will have no fiscal implications



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**Effective Date:** This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.