



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2005 Wisconsin Act 163**  
[2005 Senate Bill 562]

**Types of Firearms a Juvenile May Possess (Remedial Legislation)**

*Prior law* authorized a person under the age of 18, who is in compliance with hunting laws on youth restrictions and hunter education, to possess or go armed with a firearm having a barrel at least 12 inches in length. This law also authorized an adult to transfer such a firearm to a person under 18 years of age, who is in compliance with these hunting laws. A separate, prior law established that short-barreled rifles and shotguns are not legal weapons and may not be sold, transported, purchased, possessed, or used to arm persons other than designated individuals, including peace officers and members of the Armed Forces and National Guard in the line of duty. This prohibition defines a short-barreled rifle to include a rifle having a barrel length less than 16 inches and a short-barreled shotgun to include a shotgun having a barrel length less than 18 inches.

*2005 Wisconsin Act 163* modifies the types of firearms that a person under 18 years of age may possess or be armed with or that an adult may transfer to a person under 18 under the first prior law described above to conform to the legal rifles and shotguns under the second prior law described above. Under the Act, these allowable types of firearms exclude short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns.

2005 Senate Bill 562 was suggested as remedial legislation by the Department of Natural Resources.

*Effective Date:* April 5, 2006.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.