

Firearms

BELIZE:

BILL

for

AN ACT to amend the Firearms Act, Chapter 143 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000-2003, to rationalise the evidential provisions relating to the possession of a firearm or ammunition; to relieve hardship in genuine cases; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted.....2014).

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and the Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows: –

Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the

FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2014,

CAP. 143 and shall be read and construed as one with the Firearms Act
Act No 36/02 which, as amended, is hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.
26/03
3/07
6/08
28/10
35/10
9/11
24/13

**Amendment of
Section 6A.
Act No. 28/10**

2. Section 6A of the principal Act [inserted by Act No. 28 of 2010] is hereby amended by repealing subsection (1) thereof and replacing it by the following:-

“6A. (1) Where any unlicensed firearm or ammunition is found in or on any premises owned or occupied by more than one person, the following provisions shall have effect:

- (a) where any such firearm or ammunition is found in or on any premises occupied by a family, the head of the family or the person in charge or control of the premises shall, for the purposes of this Act, be presumed to be keeper of such firearm or ammunition, unless there is evidence to the contrary;
- (b) where any such firearm or ammunition is found in or on any premises occupied by a group of persons not constituting a family, the lessee of the premises (if there be one), or the person in charge or control of the premises shall, for the purposes of this Act, be presumed to be the keeper of such firearm or ammunition, unless there is evidence to the contrary;

- (c) where any such firearm or ammunition is found in a room, cupboard, locker or other container, the person in occupation or control of such room, cupboard, locker or container shall, for the purposes of this Act, be presumed to be the keeper of such firearm or ammunition unless there is evidence to the contrary;

- (d) where a case falls outside the scope of subparagraphs (a), (b), or (c) above and it is unclear who is the owner or keeper of such firearm or ammunition, the Police shall, before preferring any criminal charges, seek legal advice on the matter.

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