

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 364, *approved January 20, 2026*
Assembly, No. 4976 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning firearms and supplementing Title 2C of the
2 New Jersey Statutes.
3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
6
7 1. a. ²For the purposes of this act:
8 “Recklessly” shall have the same meaning as set forth in paragraph
9 (3) of subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:2-2.
10 “Structure” means any building, room, ship, vessel, car, vehicle, or
11 airplane, and also means any place adapted for overnight
12 accommodation of persons or for carrying on business therein.²
13 ¹**[A person commits a crime of the third degree by recklessly**
14 **discharging a firearm unlawfully or without a lawful purpose within a**
15 **hundred yards of:**
16 (1) an occupied structure; or
17 (2) a school, college, university or other educational institution,
18 school bus, or child care facility, whether or not occupied.**]**¹
19 ²**[For the purposes of this ¹[subsection] act¹, “structure” means**
20 **any building, room, ship, vessel, car, vehicle, or airplane, and also**
21 **means any place adapted for overnight accommodation of persons or**
22 **for carrying on business therein.]**²
23 b. A person commits a ¹**[crime of the fourth degree]** disorderly
24 persons offense¹ by recklessly discharging a firearm ¹using live
25 ammunition rounds¹ unlawfully or without a lawful purpose ¹**[in a**
26 **manner other than as provided in subsection a. of this section]** , except
27 that a second conviction for such an offense constitutes a crime of the
28 fourth degree, and a third or subsequent conviction for such an offense
29 constitutes a crime of the third degree¹.
30 ¹c. A person who commits a violation of subsection b. of this
31 section shall be charged with a crime of one degree higher than what
32 ordinarily would be charged for such offense, where the violation
33 occurs within 100 yards of:
34 (1) an occupied structure; or
35 (2) a school, college, university or other educational institution,
36 school bus, or child care facility, whether or not occupied.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted February 20, 2025.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted March 20, 2025.

1 A map or true copy of a map depicting the location and boundaries
2 of the area within 100 yards of any property subject to this subsection
3 may be used in a prosecution under this subsection.¹

4 ¹**[c.] d.**¹ Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8, or any
5 other provisions of law, a conviction arising under this section shall
6 not merge with any other related conviction and a separate sentence
7 shall be imposed upon each such conviction.

8 ¹**[d.] e.**¹ Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:44-5 or any
9 other provisions of law, when the court imposes multiple sentences of
10 imprisonment for more than one offense, those sentences shall run
11 consecutively.

12 ²**f.** It is an affirmative defense to prosecution if while engaging in
13 conduct prohibited under this section, the actor was acting otherwise in
14 lawful self-defense.²

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16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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Establishes crime of reckless discharge of firearm.