

YOU ARE BEING RIPPED OFF BY YOUR AUTO INSURER BY NOT USING THIS ONE TRICK TO CHEAP RATES SELECT YOUR AGE:

 Under 18	 19-25	 26-35	 36-45	 46-55	 56-65	 66-75	 Over 75
--	---	---	---	---	--	---	---

LowerMyBills.com
ADVERTISEMENT

Finally, some sanity may return to 'zero tolerance' policies

3:23 PM, May, 13, 2011 | 3 Comments

The General Assembly is moving toward a sensible zero-tolerance policy for possession of weapons on school grounds

Now, if a student is found with a weapon the punishment is a 365-day suspension, period, with no exceptions. This could apply even if the student found the weapon on campus and immediately turned it in, or accidentally brought it from home, as in the case of a student who took the wrong lunch bag, one that had a paring knife in it.

The bill approved by the Senate on a 50-0 vote Wednesday limits suspensions of more than 10 days “to those violations ... that either threaten the safety of students, staff, or school visitors or threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment.”

The 365-day suspension would be recommended only when the weapons violation was inconsistent with school district policies and could not be imposed if the student found or was given the weapon on school grounds and immediately turned it in.

The 1994 federal law mandating one year out of class for possession of a firearm or destructive device on school grounds remains in place, but the new state law would allow school officials to decide what is or is not a firearm or destructive device.

The state law appears to give districts an opening to impose zero-tolerance policies on their own, though the provisions are fuzzy enough that any such policy probably would wind up in court. We hope no district gives in to the temptation to act tougher-than-thou, considering the catastrophic effect such laws already have had on the lives of young people.

According to USA Today, “Students have been expelled for Halloween costumes that included paper swords and fake spiked knuckles, as well as for possessing rubber bands, slingshots and toy guns — all violations of anti-weapons policies.

“A second-grader from Alexandria, La., was booted for bringing her grandfather’s gold-plated pocket watch to school; the timepiece had a tiny knife attached.”

Make no mistake about it: a 365-day suspension amounts to expulsion. The student probably never will return to school, making it all but impossible to earn a living as an adult without turning to crime.

Like many ideas that are basically sensible, zero tolerance becomes absurd if taken to extremes. “Zero tolerance and expulsion don’t have to go hand in hand,” Ronald Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center, said in USA Today. “Zero tolerance simply means all misbehavior will have some sanction. It doesn’t mean you bring the maximum punishment for every transgression.”

“When you have a zero-tolerance policy, a first-grader who

Twitter

Facebook

Share

Email

Print

A A A

Ads by Adblade™

REAL DEALS

1. **Asheville police sniper exercise scares downtown pedestrians**

2. **Reinhardt should apologize to trooper who stopped her**

3. **Hendersonville lawyer Neill disbarred**

4. **Rare baseball scholarship offer yields uncommon reaction for Montreat College**

5. **Asheville billboard raises concern**

6. **Family of Sylvia a murder self-defense**

7. **Refinanced at 2.6% with a dou**

8. **Virginia: Mom discovers \$9 car insurance trick. Auto insurers are scared you will learn this too.**

9. **See how you can relieve your joints with this fast and easy trick..**

10. **Exclusive Presentation Reveals the Secret of How to Learn Any Language in Just 10 Days!**

[Add Your Link Here!](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

TOP STORIES

- [Thousands rally in Raleigh to back NC gay marriage ban idea](#) - 1 hour and 11 minutes ago
 - [Montreat coach criticized for recruiting female pitcher](#)
 - [Hendersonville lawyer disbarred](#)
- [SEE ALL TOP STORIES](#)

MOST POPULAR

- [Asheville police sniper exercise scares downtown pedestrians](#)
- [Reinhardt should apologize to trooper who stopped her](#)
- [Hendersonville lawyer Neill disbarred](#)
- [Rare baseball scholarship offer yields uncommon reaction for Montreat College](#)
- [Asheville billboard raises concern](#)



Erwin High prom 2011



Simmons signs with UNC



Excerpt: President Obama announces bin Laden's death

MOST COMMENTED

[Don't moralize about difficult situations some women face](#)

Comments(3) | Share your thoughts »

YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN

- [Susan Reinhardt: NC Highway Patrol tried to ruin my Mother's Day Asheville billboard raises concern](#)
- [Man jailed for tortilla dough](#)
- [HS Basketball: Crowd celebrates, Smoky standout signs with North Carolina](#)

MORE LIVING HEADLINES

- [Asheville doc walks the walk](#)
- [Johnson Farm offers low-cost antique evaluation May 18](#)
- [Asheville fundraiser supports at-risk youth](#)

Selected for you by a sponsor:

[M-Bone Killed in Drive-By Shooting \(Billboard.com\)](#)

- [Asheville police sniper exercise scares downtown pedestrians](#) **96**
- [Asheville drug rehab founder under federal scrutiny](#) **62**
- [What is president doing while gas prices go up?](#) **59**
- [Gay marriage row grows as NC Legislature changes](#) **54**

ADVERTISEMENT

Ads by Pulse 360

[GET LISTED HERE](#)

[Virginia Refinance at 2.65%](#)

\$160,000 Mortgage \$659/mo. No SSN req. Get a Free quote! (3.0% apr)
Lendgo.com/mortgage

[2011 Financial Aid](#)

You May Qualify for Financial Aid To Go Back To School!
www.SearchByDegree.com

[Unemployed or Laid Off?](#)

Go Back to School. Take College Classes Online, On Your Own Time.
www.YourDegree.com

network solutions®

Get Serious.

Grow your business
Free Domain with annual Web Hosting!

Get Started

ADVERTISEMENT

[Site Map](#) | [Back to Top](#)

<p>NEWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Local news Crime Regional News Nation/World News Black Mountain News News-Record & Sentinel Politics Photo galleries Blogs <p>OBITUARIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search Memoriams Archive 	<p>SPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school sports Golf Outdoors High School Huddle Girls Gone Outdoors Jarrett's Journal Photo galleries 	<p>ENTERTAINMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TV & Radio Movies Beer Guy Dining & Restaurants Comics & Games Music Dishin' Diva blog Family Fun Guide Photo galleries <p>VOICES & VIEWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opinion Columnists Letters to the Editor Submit a Letter to the Editor Blogs 	<p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home & Garden Outdoors Arts & Books Food & Drink Health & Fitness Weddings & Engagements Photo galleries Video WNC Parent 	<p>HELP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a classified Contact us Subscriber services Reprints Advertiser Info Submit letter editor News tips FAQ 	<p>FOLLOW US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twitter Facebook Mobile RSS E-mail Alerts Text Alerts
---	--	---	---	---	--

[News](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars for Sale](#) | [Homes for Sale](#) | [Apartments for Rent](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Mom Groups](#)

GANNETT

Copyright © 2011 www.citizen-times.com. All rights reserved.

Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights](#), and [Ad Choices](#)

ADVERTISEMENT