



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 173

HOUSE BILL NO. 135

By Representative Faison

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 205

By Senators Niceley, Bowling

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 70, relative to threatening animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Enter" means the intrusion of any part of the body of a wild animal into the interior space of a structure;

(2) "Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that involves:

(A) A substantial risk of death;

(B) Protracted unconsciousness;

(C) Extreme physical pain;

(D) Protracted or obvious disfigurement; or

(E) Protracted loss or substantial impairment of a function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; and

(3) "Wild animal" means all wild vertebrates, mollusks, crustaceans, and fish presently occurring within the state.

(b) A person who is charged with taking, attempting to take, or harming a wild animal in violation of this title may assert the defense of self-defense if the wild animal taken, attempted to be taken, or harmed acted in a manner that caused:

(1) The person to have a reasonable belief that the animal's action placed the person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury;

(2) The person to believe the danger creating the threat of imminent death or serious bodily injury is real, or is honestly believed to be real at the time; and

(3) The belief of danger to be founded upon reasonable grounds.

(c)

(1)

(A) A person shall notify the agency within twenty-four (24) hours after killing or seriously injuring a big game animal pursuant to this section if the person is reasonably able to notify the agency.

(B) No big game animal killed shall be removed from the site, repositioned, retained, sold, or transferred without authorization from the agency.

(2) A violation of subdivision (c)(1) is a Class C misdemeanor.

(d) The defense of self-defense shall not be available to a person who takes, attempts to take, or harms a wild animal if the person:

(1) Has the ability to safely retreat from the threatening animal and fails to do so, except when the animal enters a home, tent, camper, or other permanent or temporary living structure occupied at the time by the person or any other individual; or

(2) Recklessly provokes or attracts the wild animal into a situation in which it is reasonable to expect the wild animal will threaten the person or another individual.

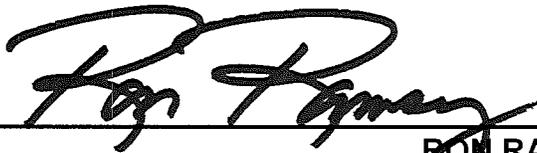
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 135

PASSED: April 2, 2015



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2015



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR