

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 228

SENATE BILL NO. 204

By Niceley, Bowling

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1318

By Keisling, Faison, Wilburn, Littleton, Butt, Holt, Carter, Moody, Travis, Sparks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, relative to vultures.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly takes notice of the widespread reports of predatory vultures attacking young livestock animals; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that, as a matter of public policy, it is not a violation of any law of this State for farmers, ranchers, and other owners of livestock animals in this State to defend their property by harassing, injuring, or killing predatory vultures that are endangering their livestock; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-8-108, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(e)(1) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), it is not an offense for any person to disturb the habitat of, alter, take, attempt to take, possess, or transport a black vulture, also known by the name *Coragyps atratus*, in this state.

(2) No state funds or personnel, or other state resources, may be used to enforce any prohibition against the disturbance of the habitat of, alteration, taking, attempting to take, possession, or transporting of a black vulture.

(3) Nothing in this subsection (e) prohibits the agency from using state funds or personnel, or other state resources, to assist landowners in acquiring federal depredation permits for black vultures.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 8, 2015

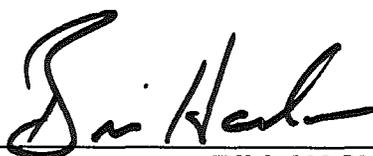


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of April 2015



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR