

HOUSE BILL 803

By Griffey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 2 and Title 40, Chapter 39, Part 1, relative to animal abuse.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-202, is amended by deleting subsection (g) and substituting:

(1) Except as provided in subdivisions (g)(3) and (4), a first conviction for cruelty to animals is a Class A misdemeanor when the offense involves cruelty against:

(A) Nine (9) or fewer non-livestock animals; or

(B) One (1) or more livestock animals.

(2) Except as provided in subdivisions (g)(3) and (4), a second or subsequent conviction for cruelty to animals is a Class E felony when the offense involves cruelty against:

(A) Nine (9) or fewer non-livestock animals; or

(B) One (1) or more livestock animals.

(3) Cruelty to animals against more than nine (9) but less than twenty-five (25) non-livestock animals at the same time and location is a Class D felony.

(4) Cruelty to animals against twenty-five (25) or more non-livestock animals at the same time and location is a Class C felony.

(5) Violation of any prohibition or restriction imposed by the sentencing court pursuant to subsection (e) is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.