

HOUSE BILL 1320

By Kumar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39  
and Title 44, Chapter 17, relative to criminal  
offenses.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) It is an offense for a person to knowingly restrain a dog with a chain, cord, tether, cable, or similar device while a natural or manmade disaster is imminent or occurring, and the dog is unattended and not under direct supervision, including a period of time when:

(1) A severe flooding or tornado warning issued by the national weather service is in effect for the geographic area where the dog is located; or

(2) A mandatory or voluntary evacuation order is in effect for the geographic area where the dog is located.

(b) Nothing in this section prohibits prosecution under § 39-14-202(b), if the person's conduct results in the dog suffering bodily injury as defined in § 39-11-106.

(c)

(1) A person shall not be prosecuted for a violation of subsection (a) unless the person has previously received a warning citation for violating subsection (a).

(2) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.