

HOUSE BILL 2691

By Doggett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;  
Title 43; Title 44 and Title 63, Chapter 12, relative  
to animals.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-207(a), is amended by adding the following language between the first and second sentences:

Prior to entering, the person must notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency of the person's intent to enter and the circumstances justifying the entry.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-207(a), is amended by redesignating the current language as subdivision (a)(1) and adding the following new subdivision:

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1), an official, employee, or agent of the department of agriculture or any other state or local department or agency shall not enter private property without probable cause to believe that a criminal offense has occurred or is occurring. This subdivision (a)(2) does not limit the ability to enter private property pursuant to the consent of the property owner, a warrant, or a recognized warrant exception.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-210, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(h) Prior to making an arrest pursuant to subsection (a) or interfering pursuant to subsection (b), an officer, agent, or member of a society which is incorporated for the prevention of cruelty to animals must notify the appropriate local law enforcement

agency of the person's intent to make an arrest or interfere to prevent an act of cruelty and the circumstances justifying the action.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-803(d), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(d) This part does not apply to, affect, or otherwise prohibit actions taken by the department of agriculture, any other federal, state, or local department or agency, or any official, employee, or agent thereof while in the exercise or performance of any power or duty imposed by law or by rule and regulation; provided, however, that any official, employee, or agent of the department of agriculture, any other state or local department or agency shall not enter private property without probable cause to believe that a criminal offense has occurred or is occurring. This subsection (d) does not limit the ability to enter private property pursuant to the consent of the property owner, a warrant, or a recognized warrant exception.

SECTION 5. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.