

SENATE BILL 1106

By Stewart

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,
Chapter 17 and Title 55, relative to allowing
another to operate a motor vehicle.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 10, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following new section thereto:

§ 55-10-209.

(a) For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Driver license" means a license issued by any state to an individual that authorizes the individual to operate a motor vehicle on the highways, but shall not include, a suspended, cancelled, revoked, or expired driver license.

(2) "Motor vehicle" means a "motor vehicle" as defined in § 55-50-102;

(3) "Owner" means an "owner" as defined in § 55-50-102.

(b) It is an offense for an owner of a motor vehicle to knowingly allow a person to operate the owner's vehicle without the person having a driver license.

(c) It is a defense to prosecution under subsection (b) that the owner reviewed, prior to allowing the person to operate the motor vehicle, a driver license issued to the person by any state, regardless of whether such license subsequently proves to be invalid.

(d)

(1) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class B misdemeanor.

(2) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class E felony if the operator of the vehicle causes serious bodily injury, as defined by § 39-11-106, to another while operating the owner's vehicle.

(3) A violation of subsection (b) is a Class D felony if the operator of the vehicle causes the death of another while operating the owner's vehicle.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.