



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 248

HOUSE BILL NO. 1453

By Representatives Faison, Moon, Richey, Powers, Moody, Carr

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1309

By Senator Bailey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 70, relative to wild animals.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-134, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(e)

(1) Notwithstanding this section to the contrary, and unless otherwise prohibited by federal law, a person who resides on property that adjoins the Great Smoky Mountains National Park may take, attempt to take, or harm a bear that enters onto the person's property if the bear acted in a manner that caused:

(A) The person to have a reasonable belief that the bear's action placed the person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury;

(B) The person to believe the danger creating the threat of imminent death or serious bodily injury is real, or is honestly believed to be real at the time; and

(C) The belief of danger to be founded upon reasonable grounds.

(2)

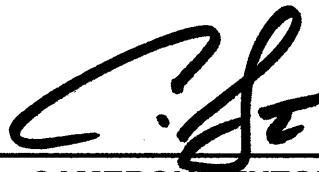
(A) A person shall notify the agency within twenty-four (24) hours after killing or seriously injuring a bear pursuant to this section if the person is reasonably able to notify the agency.

(B) A bear must not be removed from the site, repositioned, retained, sold, or transferred without authorization from the agency.

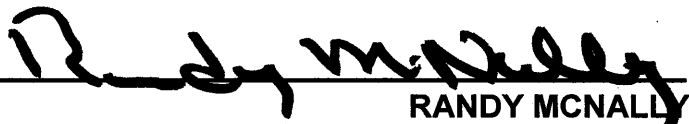
SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 30, 2023



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 25th day of April 2023



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR