

SENATE BILL 1499

By Green

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 2, relative to the use of certain dogs for criminal activity.

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:

39-14-218

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Fighting dog" means a dog that has been trained to fight, attack or kill another animal or a person or has been used to fight another animal.

(2), "Guard dog" means a dog that has received specialized training by any branch of the military, law enforcement, a private trainer, or other person to guard people or property against, and watch for, unwanted or unexpected animals or people; and

(3) "Vicious dog" means a dog that without provocation and off the property of the owner or keeper of the dog has attacked a person causing death or serious bodily injury to such person or has been declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be a vicious dog;

(b) It is an offense for a person to knowingly use a fighting dog, guard dog or vicious dog in the commission of, or flight from, a criminal offense or to use any such dog to guard or protect illegal activities, contraband, illegal controlled substances or other illegal or illegally obtained property.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class E felony if the offense for which the dog was used or the amount of property guarded was a felony and a Class A misdemeanor if the offense for which the dog was used or property guarded was a misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.