

SENATE BILL 2808

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-101 and Title 70, relative to creatures that are poisonous or venomous.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-101, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting:

(a) It is an offense for a person to display, exhibit, handle, or use a venomous or dangerous snake or reptile in a manner that endangers the life or health of any person.

As used in this subsection (a), "venomous" means any toxic substance that is actively injected by an animal through a bite or sting and that causes injury or death.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-402, is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

( ) "Poisonous" means any toxic substance secreted from the skin of an animal and that causes injury or death when absorbed or ingested;

( ) "Venomous" means any toxic substance that is actively injected by an animal through a bite or sting and that causes injury or death;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-403(1)(B)(ii), is amended by deleting the word "poisonous" and substituting "venomous".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-405(h)(7), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(7) Poisonous reptiles, including venomous snakes, shall only be transported in a strong, closely woven cloth sack, tied or otherwise secured. This sack shall then be placed in a box. The box shall be of strong material in solid sheets, except for small air

holes, which shall be screened. Boxes containing poisonous reptiles, including venomous snakes, shall be locked and prominently labeled "Danger — Venomous Snakes" or "Danger — Poisonous Reptiles," and shall include the owner's name, address, telephone number, and list of number and species being transported;

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