

SENATE BILL 1629

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36; Title 37; Title 39; Title 49; Title 50 and Title 55, relative to weapons.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-131(a)(2)(B)(i)(v), is amended by deleting the subdivision.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-131(a)(2)(B)(i)(w), is amended by deleting "Handgun possession" and substituting "Unlawful handgun possession or carrying of a firearm".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1301, is amended by deleting subdivision (2).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1307, is amended by deleting subsection (a).

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1307, is amended by deleting subsection (e).

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1307, is amended by deleting subsection (g).

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1308(a), is amended by deleting subdivisions (a)(8) and (9).

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by deleting subdivision (e)(8) and substituting:

(8)

(A) Persons possessing a knife or handgun, who are not prohibited from possessing a knife or handgun, while within or on a public park, natural area,

historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place;

(B) This subdivision (e)(8) does not prohibit a school offering the grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) from restricting access to an area of property listed in subdivision (e)(8)(A) and denying persons carrying a firearm access to the restricted area, unless the person is otherwise authorized to carry the firearm, or denying persons carrying a knife access to the restricted area.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1311, is amended by deleting the section and substituting:

It is not an offense for a person authorized to carry a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351 or § 39-17-1366 or a person who is not prohibited from carrying a firearm, to do so in any state or local park, on a public greenway or other recreational property, or, to the extent permitted by federal law, within or on property designated by the federal government as a national park, forest, preserve, historic park, military park, trail, or recreation area.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1313(a), is amended by deleting "who lawfully carries a handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1307(g)" and substituting "who is not prohibited from possessing or carrying a firearm".

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1319, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting:

(b) Except as provided in this section, it is an offense for a juvenile to:

- (1) Knowingly possess a handgun; or
- (2) Carry, with the intent to go armed, a firearm.

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1319(c)(1), is amended by deleting "Illegal possession of a handgun by a juvenile" and substituting "A violation of this

section".

SECTION 13. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1319(c)(3), is amended by deleting "handgun" and substituting "firearm".

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1319(d), is amended by deleting "handgun" wherever it appears and substituting "firearm".

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1319(d)(1), is further amended by adding the following new subdivisions:

- (I) Engaging in the lawful protection of livestock from predatory animals; or
- (J) Except as provided in § 39-17-1309, transporting or storing an unloaded firearm in a motor vehicle while on or utilizing a public or private parking area if:
 - (i) The juvenile is licensed to drive a motor vehicle pursuant to title 55, chapter 50, part 3;
 - (ii) The juvenile's motor vehicle is parked in a location where the motor vehicle is permitted to be; and
 - (iii) The firearm being transported or stored in the motor vehicle:
 - (a) Is kept from ordinary observation if the juvenile is in the motor vehicle; or
 - (b) Is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, glove box, or interior of the juvenile's motor vehicle or a container securely affixed to the motor vehicle if the juvenile is not in the motor vehicle.

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1319(e), is amended by deleting "handgun" and substituting "firearm".

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1359(g)(2)(B), is amended by deleting "or § 39-17-1311(b)(1)(H)(ii)".

SECTION 18. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1364, is amended by deleting the language "Notwithstanding § 39-17-1307, or any other law," and substituting "Notwithstanding another law to the contrary,".

SECTION 19. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3051(b)(2)(H), is amended by deleting the subdivision.

SECTION 20. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3051(b)(2)(I), is amended by deleting "Handgun possession" and substituting "Unlawful handgun possession or carrying of a firearm".

SECTION 21. This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.