

**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1173**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2719**

**By Norris**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 2589**

**By John Deberry, Hardaway, Towns, Ulysses Jones, Brown, Shaw, Bone,  
Favors, Sontany**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, relative to imitation firearms.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

§ 39-17-1362.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Imitation firearm" means an object or device substantially similar in coloration and overall appearance to a firearm, as defined in § 39-11-106(a), as to lead a reasonable person to perceive that the object or device is such a firearm; and

(2) "Public place" means a place to which the public or a group of persons has access and includes, but is not limited to, highways, transportation facilities, schools, places of amusement, parks, places of business, playgrounds and hallways, lobbies and other portions of apartment houses and hotels not constituting rooms or apartments designed for actual residence; an act is deemed to occur in a public place if it produces its proscribed consequences in a public place, even if the person engaging in the prohibited conduct is not in a public place.

(b) A person commits an offense who intentionally displays in a threatening manner an imitation firearm in a public place in such a way that would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily injury to themselves or another.

(c) It is a defense to a violation of subsection (b) if the imitation firearm is displayed in connection with or as a part of any justifiable defense as set forth in Title 39, Chapter 11, Part 6.

(d) A violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit prosecution under any other provision of law.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: May 21, 2008**

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**APPROVED this 19th day of June 2008**

  
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PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR