



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 250

HOUSE BILL NO. 995

By Representatives Harrison, Holsclaw, Goins, Dunn, Todd, Lundberg, Haynes, Eldridge

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1171

By Senators Stevens, Gresham, Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, relative to the possession of weapons in areas frequented by children.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1311(b)(1), is amended by deleting subdivision (H) and substituting instead the following:

(H)

(i) Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351, while within or on a public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the state, a county, a municipality, or instrumentality of the state, a county, or municipality.

(ii) Subdivision (b)(1)(H)(i) shall not apply if the permit holder:

(a) Possessed a handgun in the immediate vicinity of property that was, at the time of possession, in use by any board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution for the purpose of conducting an athletic event or other school-related activity on an athletic field, permanent or temporary, including but not limited to, a football or soccer field, tennis court, basketball court, track, running trail, Frisbee field, or similar multi-use field; and

(b) Knew or should have known the athletic activity or school-related activity described in subdivision (b)(1)(H)(a) was taking place on the property; or

(c) Failed to take reasonable steps to leave the area of the athletic event or school-related activity after being informed of or becoming aware of its use;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1311, is amended by deleting subsections (c), (d), and (e) in their entireties and redesignating accordingly.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by deleting from subdivision (b)(1) and subdivision (c)(1)(A) the language "or any other property owned, used or operated by" and substituting instead the language "or any other property owned, operated, or while in use by".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by adding the following new subdivision to subsection (e):

()

(A) Persons possessing a handgun, who are authorized to carry the handgun pursuant to § 39-17-1351, while within or on a public park, natural area,

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

(B) Subdivision (A) shall not apply if the permit holder:

(i) Possessed a handgun on property described in () (A) that is owned or operated by a board of education, school, college, or university board of trustees, regents, or directors unless the permit holder's possession is otherwise excepted by this subsection; or

(ii) Possessed a handgun in the immediate vicinity of property that was, at the time of possession, in use by any board of education, school, college or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution for the purpose of conducting an athletic event or other school-related activity on an athletic field, permanent or temporary, including but not limited to, a football or soccer field, tennis court, basketball court, track, running trail, Frisbee field, or any similar multi-use field; and

(iii) Knew or should have known that:

(a) An athletic event or school-related activity described in subdivision (e) () (B) (ii) was taking place on the property at the time of the possession; or

(b) The property on which the possession occurred was owned or operated by a school entity described in (e) () (B) (ii); or

(iv) Failed to take reasonable steps to leave the area of the athletic field or school-related activity or the property after being informed or becoming aware of:

(a) Its use for athletic or school-related purposes; or

(b) That it was, at the time of the possession, owned or operated by a school entity described in (e) () (B) (ii).

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1311, is amended by deleting from subdivision (b)(1)(J)(ii) the word "transversing" and substituting instead the word "traversing".

SECTION 6. Any department of state government may, but is not required to, change, remove, or replace signs as a result of Sections 1 or 4 of this act prior to the time the signs are regularly scheduled to be changed, replaced, or removed or are required to be changed, replaced, or removed by any other law or due to destruction or theft; provided, that the general assembly may specifically provide funds for the purpose of removing or replacing signs in a general appropriations act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 995

PASSED: April 16, 2015



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 24TH day of April 2015



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR