



2025 New Legislation Report

Tennessee Firearms Association 2025

SB130/HB175 **ENVIRONMENT & NATURE: Use of drones to locate and retrieve deer that have been wounded by hunters.**



Sen. Walley, Page

Rep. Darby, Tandy

Summary: Authorizes the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission to promulgate rules or pass proclamations to authorize the use of unmanned aircraft, including drones, to locate and retrieve deer that have been wounded by hunters.

Amendment

Summary:

Subcommittee

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 18, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 05/08/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/30/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 05/22/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0478, effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

Public PC478.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 70, relative to the use of unmanned aircraft for deer recovery when hunting.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Crawford, John; Rep. Hale, Michael;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position: Amend

Priority: 3 - Third-tier

Comment: The bill specifically references "deer." It should likely be amended to include the search for or recovery of game or injured animal. Why, for example, limit this to deer when it just as easily could be elk, bear, exotics, waterfowl, etc.? Also, why is it limited to those animals wounded while lawfully engaged in hunting? Are there other reasons (e.g., road injuries) that should allow for such search and location?

SB206/HB646 ENVIRONMENT & NATURE: Use of certain colors while hunting.



Sen. Massey, Becky
Rep. Carringer, Michele

Summary: Authorizes persons big game hunting to substitute daylight fluorescent pink for fluorescent orange. Requires the color to be at least 500 square inches and visible from the front and back.

Amendment

Summary:

Subcommittee

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 24, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 04/09/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/10/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 04/29/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0220, effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

Public PC220.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 70, relative to the use of certain colors while hunting.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Jones, Renea; Rep. Lamberth, William; Rep. Reedy, Jay; Sen. Reeves, Shane; Rep. Todd, Chris; Rep. Vital, Greg;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position: Oppose

Priority:

Comment: Appears to be a caption bill.

SB221/HB34 CRIMINAL LAW: Use of juvenile court records.



Sen. Taylor, Brent
Rep. Gillespie, John

Summary: Permits a court to use juvenile court records, including the disposition and evidence, in pretrial reports used to set bond for criminal offenses. Requires the magistrate to consider the defendant's prior juvenile record in determining the defendant's risk of danger to the community.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (003523) authorizes a court to use juvenile court records, including the disposition of a child and evidence adduced in a hearing, in pretrial reports used to set bonds if the juvenile court adjudication occurred within the previous five years. Requires, in determining the amount of bail necessary to reasonably assure the appearance of a defendant and the public's safety, a magistrate to consider the defendant's prior juvenile record. House amendment 2 (005127) authorizes a court to use juvenile court records, including the disposition of a child and evidence adduced in a hearing, in pretrial reports used to set bonds if the juvenile court adjudication occurred within the previous five years. Requires, in determining the amount of bail necessary to reasonably assure the appearance of a defendant and the public's safety, a magistrate to consider the defendant's prior juvenile record.

Subcommittee HB0034_(004207).pdf

Amendments: HB0034_Amendment (005127).pdf

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 6, 2025) OTHER FISCAL IMPACT Passage of the proposed legislation may result in an increase in local incarceration expenditures; however, the precise timing and impact is dependent on multiple unknown factors and cannot be determined with reasonable certainty.

Senate Status: 04/29/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 05/01/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 05/15/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0414, effective May 9, 2025.

Public Chapter: PC414.pdf

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37 and Title 40, relative to juvenile records.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Faison, Jeremy; Rep. Farmer, Andrew; Rep. Hardaway, G.A.; Rep. Leatherwood, Tom; Rep. Moody, Debra; Rep. Powers, Dennis; Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Vaughan, Kevin; Rep. White, Mark;

Effective Date: 05/09/25

Position:

Priority:

Comment:

SB256/HB601 CRIMINAL LAW: Request for post-conviction relief.



Sen. Gardenhire, Todd
Rep. Freeman, Bob

Summary: Establishes a procedure through which a district attorney general or person convicted of a criminal offense may, at any time, request post-conviction relief by filing a verified petition alleging actual innocence based on new evidence that was not known by the judge or jury at the time of conviction, including scientific and non-scientific evidence. Specifies that the clerk shall not charge a fee for the filing of such petition. Requires the petition to include allegations of fact supporting each claim for relief and requires the petition and any amended petition to be verified under oath.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (006334) expands writ of error coram nobis to include cases in which the defendant entered a guilty, best interest, or no contest plea.

Subcommittee HB0601_Amendment (006334).pdf

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated March 1, 2025) OTHER FISCAL IMPACT To the extent a hearing is held and a defendants conviction is vacated, there will be a reduction in state incarceration expenditures. The timing and amount of any sentence reduction is unknown and unable to be determined with reasonable certainty. Any increase in expenditures to General Fund or the Indigent Defense Fund is dependent upon multiple unknown factors and cannot be reasonably quantified.

Senate Status: 04/15/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/14/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 04/30/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0282, effective April 24, 2025.

Status:

Public PC282.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, relative to post-conviction relief.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh; Sen. Bowling, Janice; Sen. Campbell, Heidi; Rep. Doggett, Clay; Rep. Farmer, Andrew; Rep. Hardaway, G.A.; Rep. Harris, Torrey; Rep. Hulsey, Bud; Rep. Love Jr., Harold; Rep. Parkinson, Antonio; Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Towns Jr., Joe; Sen. Yarbro, Jeff;

Effective Date: 04/24/25

Position:

Priority:

Comment:

SB407/HB445 CAMPAIGNS & LOBBYING: Revises the procedure for restoration of rights of citizenship.



Sen. Gardenhire, Todd
Rep. Hulsey, Bud

Summary: Revises the procedure for restoration of rights of citizenship.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (005985) makes the following changes and additions to this bill and present law concerning

Summary: restoration of rights of citizenship: (1) Removes fines from the definition of court costs for purposes of determining the costs that a person convicted of an infamous crime on or after September 1, 2010, must have paid to be eligible for restoration of the right of suffrage; (2) Clarifies that the court clerk, not the court, is responsible for notifying prosecutors and others concerning the filing of a petition for restoration of citizenship rights; (3) Clarifies that only prosecuting attorneys, not the coordinator of elections, have standing to object to a petition, and adds that, if no prosecutor objects to a petition within 30 days of receipt of notice, then the court may rule on the petition without a hearing; (4) Requires that a court must find a petitioner to be indigent before waiving court costs associated with the petition; and (5) Requires the administrative office of the courts ("AOC"), in consultation with the secretary of state and other entities as deemed appropriate by the AOC, to develop a petition for restoration of citizenship rights form and an order granting restoration of citizenship rights form and to make the petition and order forms available to the clerks of court, the department of correction, the board of parole, the department of human services, and online for use by the public.

Subcommittee HB0445_Amendment (005985).pdf

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated March 14, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 04/21/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/21/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 05/02/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0298, effective May 2, 2025.

Status:

Public PC298.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2; Title 4; Title 22; Title 36; Title 39 and Title 40, relative to rights of citizenship.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Barrett, Jody; Rep. Butler, Ed; Rep. Fritts, Monty; Rep. Grills, Rusty; Rep. Hardaway, G.A.; Rep. Howell, Dan; Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Kumar, Sabi; Rep. Leatherwood, Tom; Rep. Parkinson, Antonio; Rep. Reedy, Jay; Rep. Russell, Lowell; Sen. Yager, Ken;

Effective Date: 05/02/25

Position: Neutral

Priority:

Comment: Bill is very broadly written and needs to be monitored for amendments.

SB863/HB799 ENVIRONMENT & NATURE: Guide licenses for persons who work as guides at Reelfoot Lake.



Sen. Stevens, John
Rep. Grills, Rusty

Summary: Directs the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission to promulgate rules to create and issue guide licenses for persons who work as guides at Reelfoot Lake.

Amendment

Summary:

Subcommittee HB0799_Amendment (005724).pdf

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated March 14, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE Wildlife Resources Fund FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$6,500

Senate Status: 04/29/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/30/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 05/15/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0443, effective May 9, 2025.

Status:

Public PC443.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 11, Chapter 14, Part 1 and Title 70, relative to Reelfoot Lake guide licenses.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Capley, Kip; Rep. Shaw, Johnny; Rep. Todd, Chris;

Effective Date: 05/09/25

Position:

Priority:

Comment:

SB869/HB938 ENVIRONMENT & NATURE: Creates a bait privilege license to allow hunting with bait.



Sen. Hensley, Joey
Rep. Capley, Kip

Summary: Creates a bait privilege license to allow hunting or taking of whitetail deer and wild-appearing swine using bait on privately owned or privately leased land.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (004641) removes wild hogs from this bill so that the bait privilege license may only be used when hunting whitetail deer. This amendment specifies that all hunters in a hunting party who hunt over bait are required to purchase and have in their possession a deer bait privilege license. This amendment sets the initial fee for a deer bait privilege license at \$50.00 for a resident and \$100 for a non-resident. This amendment authorizes the fish and wildlife commission to adjusted the deer bait privilege license fee and requires the commission to promulgate rules to implement this bill by August 1, 2026. This amendment removes this bill's authorization for persons to hunt, chase, trap, kill, or take wildlife using properly shocked corn or standing crops of corn, wheat, or other grain or feed and grains scattered solely as a result of normal agricultural harvesting. Present law specifies that three conditions must exist in order for the executive director of the TWRA to use otherwise prohibited means for the taking of animals to control rabies. One of the three conditions is that an official quarantine by the county board of health has been established on all dogs, cats, and pets in the county. This amendment defines "pets" to mean domesticated animals normally maintained in or near the household of its owner.

Subcommittee HB0938_Amendment (004641).pdf

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated March 14, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE Wildlife Fund FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$6,511,300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$438,500

Senate Status: 04/29/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/30/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 05/15/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0444, effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

Public PC444.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, relative to hunting with bait.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Doggett, Clay; Rep. Littleton, Mary; Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. McCalmon, Jake; Sen. Stevens, John;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position:

Priority:

Comment:

SB1038/HB1060 **ENVIRONMENT & NATURE: Fees for hunting and fishing licenses.**



Sen. Bowling, Janice
Rep. Howell, Dan

Summary: Increases the fee that county clerks and other agents are authorized to collect from purchases of hunting and fishing licenses from \$1.00 to \$3.00 for annual licenses and \$.50 to \$3.00 for temporary licenses.

Amendment

Summary:

Subcommittee

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated March 1, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE Wildlife Resource Fund FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$18,200 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE Mandatory FY25-26 & Subsequent Years \$118,300

Senate Status: 04/17/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/15/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 05/08/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0349, effective May 2, 2025.

Status:

Public PC349.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-2-106, relative to agent fees.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Sen. Hatcher, Tom; Rep. Todd, Chris;

Effective Date: 05/02/25

Position:

Priority:

Comment:

SB1075/HB1093 CRIMINAL LAW: Hearing on suspension or revocation of person's handgun carry permit - notice.


Sen. Johnson, Jack
Rep. Sexton, Cameron

Summary: Extends, from 10 to 15 days, the amount of written notice of the hearing date and time the department must provide to a person requesting a hearing on the department's suspension or revocation of the person's handgun carry permit. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (005877) expands the definition of machine gun as it relates to weapons offenses. Provides an exception for acquiring or possessing such a weapon if the person is in full compliance with the National Firearms Act. Increases the offense of intentionally or knowingly possessing, manufacturing, transporting, repairing, or selling a machine gun from a Class E felony to a Class C felony. Expands the offense of unlawful possession of a firearm with a prior conviction of a felony crime of violence, an attempt to commit a felony crime of violence, or a felony involving a deadly weapon, or a prior conviction for a felony drug offense, to include possession of ammunition. Expands the offense of unlawful possession of a handgun to include possession of ammunition. Prohibits probation for a person convicted of aggravated assault involving the discharge of a firearm from within a motor vehicle. Establishes that a person incarcerated for the offense of aggravated assault, if the offense involved the use of a firearm from within a motor vehicle, is ineligible to receive sentence reduction credits and must serve 100 percent of the imposed sentence.

Subcommittee HB1093_Amendment (004916).pdf

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 7, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 05/08/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/30/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 05/22/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0513, effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

Public PC513.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 40, relative to firearms.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Farmer, Andrew; Rep. Hardaway, G.A.; Sen. Rose, Paul;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position: Oppose

Priority:

Comment: This bill was suddenly amended by the House Sponsor to completely change the effect of the legislation. It now seeks, among other things, to materially change the definition of a machinegun under state law. The problem that this creates is that machineguns already have very technical definitions under federal law and this amendment risks creating state law ambiguities that could give rise to different interpretations of state and federal law. Oppose this rushed proposed change in the law particularly since neither sponsor has a history establishing a clear or strong understanding of either the 2nd Amendment or the Supreme Court's rulings relative to the Second Amendment.

SB1082/HB578 **CRIMINAL LAW: Offense of possessing a firearm or antique firearm during commission or attempt to commit a dangerous felony.**



Sen. Johnson, Jack

Rep. Doggett, Clay

Summary: Adds certain criminal offenses, including first degree murder, second degree murder, and reckless homicide to the list of dangerous felonies for purposes of the offense of possessing a firearm or antique firearm during commission or attempt to commit a dangerous felony.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (005970) expands the definition of “dangerous felony” in regard to weapons offenses, to include 15 additional criminal offenses.

Subcommittee

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 27, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES Incarceration \$117,600

Senate Status: 05/08/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/30/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 05/22/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0492, effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

Public PC492.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, relative to criminal offenses.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Grills, Rusty; Rep. Hardaway, G.A.; Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther; Rep. Howell, Dan; Sen. Jackson, Ed; Rep. Lamberth, William; Rep. Powers, Dennis; Sen. Rose, Paul; Sen. Yager, Ken;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position: Oppose

Priority: 1 - Top-tier

Comment: The bill recklessly adds a lot of additional crimes as "dangerous" to an existing list.

For example, the bill adds “reckless homicide” TCA 39-13-215 as a “dangerous felony”. The result is that if someone “possesses” a firearm with the intent to go armed (which we believe is a standard that violates the Supreme Court decision in Bruen) at the time of the offense then the person gets as an additional crime or sentence of from 3 to 10 years in prison with no parole.

Consider, for example, the case of an individual who was convicted of reckless homicide, a Class D felony. The facts involved a car wreck in which two occupants of the other vehicle died. However, TN and federal law are clear that in Tennessee a “reckless homicide” is a nonviolent felony. Indeed, at least one Tennessee appellate court and one federal court have reached the same conclusion:

/quote/

We decline, however, to characterize reckless homicide as a crime of violence because it requires reckless conduct rather than intentional or knowing conduct. See *United States v. Portela*, 469 F.3d 496, 499 (6th Cir.2006) (holding that Tennessee’s vehicular assault statute, with the requisite mens rea of recklessness, was not a crime of violence under the United States Sentencing Guidelines). Because the defendant’s reckless homicide conviction was not a violent felony, we decline to weigh it more heavily against his credibility than other non-violent felonies.

//endquote//

See, *State v. Parham*, 2010 WL 2898785, at *8 (Tenn.Crim.App.,2010)

This legislation seeks to elevate a non-violent felony conviction to a “dangerous felony” – a term that suggests at a minimum that there be some mens rea that would warrant a finding of knowing or intentional violence as opposed to recklessness.

Further, under the legislation if the individual had a firearm in their possession, e.g., a longarm for which there are few affirmative defenses under TN law, such that it qualified under the “intent to go armed” clause then a person committing a nonviolent felony which the state established was reckless but not either intentional nor knowing would be sentenced from 3 to 10 years in prison even if the normal consequence of the sentencing statutes called for no prison time at all for the underlying crime.

SB1140/HB918 ENVIRONMENT & NATURE: Issuance of temporary hunting licenses for disabled veterans.

Sen. Crowe, Rusty

Rep. Slater, William

Summary: Requires issuance of temporary hunting licenses, of up to seven-days duration and at no cost, to disabled veterans participating in hunting experiences sponsored and paid for by not-for-profit organizations. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: Senate amendment 1 (005237) adds that the executive director of the wildlife resources agency, or the executive director's designee, must, upon request, issue a temporary group hunting event permit to a not-for-profit organization that sponsors and pays for a hunting experience at no cost to a veteran with any percentage of service-connected disability. Provides that such a temporary group hunting event permit must be for a duration that is no longer than the duration of the hunting experience for which the permit is issued, but in no event may the permit be valid for more than seven days. Such hunting experience must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and proclamations. Requires participants to provide all information necessary to obtain an individual hunting license in connection with a temporary group hunting event permit, and none of the cost for the permit must be borne by the disabled veteran participant. Requires the executive director, or the executive director's designee, to accept as evidence of service-connected disability a certification from the veterans' administration. Provides that in order to account for lost federal funding to the agency and to comply with present law, the executive director, or the executive director's designee, may collect all pertinent and relevant information to certify the unique individuals taking part in the hunting experience under a temporary group hunting event permit. Authorizes the Tennessee fish and wildlife commission to promulgate rules necessary to effectuate this amendment.

Subcommittee HB0918_Amendment (004918).pdf

Amendments: HB0918_Amendment (005237).pdf

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 27, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 04/07/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/07/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 04/29/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0216, effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

Public Chapter: PC216.pdf

Caption:

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58 and Title 70, relative to hunting licenses for disabled veterans participating in hunts sponsored by not-for-profit organizations.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Barrett, Jody; Sen. Bowling, Janice; Rep. Cepicky, Scott; Rep. Crawford, John; Rep. Eldridge, Rick; Rep. Fritts, Monty; Rep. Hawk, David; Rep. Hemmer, Caleb; Rep. Howell, Dan; Rep. Lafferty, Justin; Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. Martin, Brock; Rep. Moon, Jerome; Rep. Reedy, Jay; Rep. Reneau, Michele; Sen. Rose, Paul; Sen. Southerland, Steve; Rep. Todd, Chris;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position:

Priority:

Comment:

SB1296/HB1314 CRIMINAL LAW: Criminal offenses for threatening to commit an act of mass violence and posting an individual's number or address.



Sen. Johnson, Jack
Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Creates a criminal offense for threatening to commit an act of mass violence. Creates a criminal offense for posting on a publicly accessible website the telephone number or home address of an individual with the intent of causing harm or a threat of harm to the individual or a member of the individual's family or household. Part of Administration Package.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (004348) creates a Class E felony offense for knowingly, by any means of communication, threatening to commit an act of mass violence and the threat causes another to reasonably expect the commission of an act of mass violence. This classification is enhanced to a Class D felony if: (1) the violation involves a threat to commit mass violence on the property of a school, house of worship, or government, or at a live performance or event; (2) the defendant has one of more prior convictions for such offense or a Class A misdemeanor threat of mass violence on a school property; or (3) the defendant takes a substantial step towards the execution of the threatened act and engages in preparatory actions. Authorizes a sentencing court to order a person convicted of threatening to commit an act of mass violence to pay restitution, including costs and damages resulting from the disruption of the normal activity that would have otherwise occurred but for the threat to commit an act of mass violence. Creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for posting on a publicly accessible website a person's telephone number or address with the intent to threat or cause harm. Enhances the penalty, from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor, if the offense results in harm to the individual or a member of the individual's household.

Subcommittee Amendments: HB1314_Amendment (004348).pdf

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 14, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES Incarceration \$822,200

Senate Status: 05/08/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/30/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 05/22/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0522, effective July 1, 2025.

Public Chapter: PC522.pdf

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 8 and Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 3, relative to criminal offenses.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Burkhart, Jeff; Rep. Capley, Kip; Rep. Cochran, Mark; Rep. Crawford, John; Rep. Davis, Elaine; Rep. Eldridge, Rick; Sen. Haile, Ferrell; Rep. Hardaway, G.A.; Rep. Howell, Dan; Rep. Keisling, Kelly; Rep. Leatherwood, Tom; Rep. McCalmon, Jake; Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Sherrell, Paul; Sen. Stevens, John;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position:	Oppose
Priority:	
Comment:	Apparent caption bill.

SB1318/HB1332 CRIMINAL LAW: Department of correction notice requirements - valid judgement of conviction.

Sen. Johnson, Jack

Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Increases, from within 90 days to within 100 days of receipt by the department of a valid judgment of conviction, the time period within which the department must notify the victim witness coordinator of the county of conviction of the currently scheduled parole hearing date when the inmate will be eligible for parole consideration. Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (004362) rewrites this bill. One of the present law eligibility requirements for issuance of an enhanced handgun carry permit is that the applicant for a permit has not been convicted of DUI two or more times within 10 years from the date of the application and that none of the convictions has occurred within five years from the date of application or renewal. This amendment clarifies that an applicant who has a DUI conviction that occurred within five years from the date of application or renewal is not eligible for a permit; and (2) Subject to certain exceptions for persons who have military service, present law requires that an applicant for an enhanced handgun carry permit be at least 21 years of age. This amendment lowers the age requirement to 18; provided, that the applicant meets all other eligibility requirements for issuance of the permit.

Subcommittee: HB1332_Amendment (004362).pdf

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 6, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 04/22/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/22/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 05/08/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0356, effective May 2, 2025.

Status:

Public: PC356.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 40, relative to criminal justice.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul; Sen. Bowling, Janice; Rep. Cochran, Mark; Rep. Davis, Elaine; Rep. Grills, Rusty; Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Todd, Chris;

Effective Date: 05/02/25

Position: Oppose

Priority:

Comment: Oppose -- This was a caption bill was amended to change eligibility requirements for the enhanced handgun permit. One change is to drop the age of eligibility from 21 to 18 but only for the enhanced permit. It does not drop the age for those with concealed only permits or for those who rely on the permitless carry defense.

The treatment of enhanced permit holders differently from those seeking concealed only or permitless carry likely violates the state's settlement terms in the Beeler case in federal court. It also likely creates a knowing and intentional violation of the 2nd Amendment, the 14th Amendment and the Federal Civil Rights Act.

SB1360/HB873 JUDICIARY: Civil actions against arms dealers, manufacturers, and sellers.

Sen. Hensley, Joey

Rep. Fritts, Monty

Summary: Removes the ability to bring a civil liability action for negligence per se against a seller of a qualified product. Expands "qualified products" to include knives, body armor, pepper spray, silencers, tasers, stun guns, and other certain products. Requires physical injury for a negligent entrustment action rather than an unreasonable risk of physical injury. Specifies that a person who will be subject to an ordinance in the future or reasonably intends to be physically present in the political subdivision is an adversely affected party for purposes of filing certain actions. Makes various other changes regarding civil actions against arms dealers, manufacturers, and sellers and the preemption of local regulation of firearms. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Senate amendment 1 (004178) corrects a typographical error.

Summary:

Subcommittee HB0873_Amendment (004178).pdf

Amendments:

Fiscal Note: (Dated March 23, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 04/21/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/21/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 05/08/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0329, effective July 1, 2025.

Status:

Public PC329.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 29, Chapter 42 and Title 39, relative to weapons.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul; Rep. Barrett, Jody; Sen. Bowling, Janice; Rep. Boyd, Clark; Rep. Burkhart, Jeff; Rep. Butler, Ed; Rep. Capley, Kip; Rep. Davis, Elaine; Rep. Doggett, Clay; Rep. Eldridge, Rick; Rep. Garrett, Johnny ; Rep. Grills, Rusty; Rep. Hawk, David; Rep. Jones, Renea; Rep. Keisling, Kelly; Rep. Lamberth, William; Sen. Lowe, Adam; Rep. Martin, Brock; Rep. McCalmon, Jake; Rep. Moon, Jerome; Rep. Powers, Dennis; Rep. Raper, Kevin; Rep. Reedy, Jay; Rep. Scarbrough, Rick; Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Stinnett, Tom; Rep. Terry, Bryan; Rep. Todd, Chris; Rep. Warner, Todd; Sen. Watson, Bo;

Effective Date: 07/01/25

Position: Support

Priority:

Comment: This legislation is a technical adjustments to TN's existing PLCAA (Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act) which would prohibit claims against manufacturers that result in judgments in other states from being enforced against manufacturer's assets in Tennessee.

SB1384/HB683 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Creates the enhanced armed guard certificate.

Sen. Watson, Bo

Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Creates the enhanced armed guard certificate that may be obtained upon completion of certain training and other requirements by an armed security guard/officer who has at least five years of full-time experience as a law enforcement officer or four years of active duty military experience in a combat arms military occupational specialty. Directs the commissioner of commerce and insurance to establish and approve an enhanced armed guard training course. Specifies that the enhanced armed guard training course be offered no less than quarterly and be at least 16 hours in length. Also requires the enhanced armed guard training to include must also include scenario-based training on when a rifle-caliber weapon may be deployed in an offensive or defensive posture and training on the secure storage of a rifle-caliber weapon when the weapon is not deployed.

Amendment Summary: House amendment 1 (004376) changes references of "enhanced armed guard certification" to "enhanced armed guard registration" throughout the bill. Revises present law provision exempting certain persons and entities from application of the "Private Protective Services Licensing and Regulatory Act" to, instead, only exempt such person and entities from the requirements of obtaining a license or registration under such Act. Changes the provisions authorizing an enhanced armed guard to carry a rifle caliber weapon under the bill to, instead, carry a rifle or shotgun. Defines "rifle" as any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire a projectile through a rifled bore by a single function of the trigger. Defines "shotgun" as any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth-bore barrel either a number of ball shot or a single projectile by a single function of the trigger. Revises the provision requiring an applicant, to be eligible for registration enhancement, to submit to and pass a criminal background check to, instead, submit to, with results submitted to the commissioner of commerce and insurance, a fingerprint-based criminal history record check to be conducted by the Tennessee bureau of investigation and then a fingerprint-based national criminal history record check to be completed by the federal bureau of investigation. Removes the requirement that the enhanced armed guard training course be developed by the commissioner of commerce and insurance and only requires it be approved by the commissioner. Revises the renewal requirements for an enhanced armed guard registration enhancement to, instead, require such guard to (i) pay an annual renewal fee, as set by the commissioner of commerce and insurance; (ii) submit to a criminal background check, with results submitted to the commissioner; and (iii) successfully complete an annual requalification course, approved by the commissioner, that is a minimum of eight hours in duration, of which no less than six hours consist of rifle and shotgun training and qualification on a weapon range. House amendment 2 (005468) removes the provision limiting the exemptions only to requirements to obtain a license or registration under the "Private Protective Services Licensing and Regulatory Act" instead of applying to the entire act. Adds a provision prohibiting a person from carrying a rifle or shotgun while providing security services without holding a current enhanced armed guard registration.

Subcommittee**Amendments:**

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 17, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT POST REVENUE TBI STS Commission FY25-26 \$14,700 \$1,700 \$11,500 FY26-27 & Subsequent Years \$23,100 \$3,400 - EXPENDITURES POST Commission FY25-26 \$1,105,400 FY26-27 & Subsequent Years \$673,800 Total Positions Required: 7

Senate Status: 04/22/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/22/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive Status: 05/08/25 - Enacted as Public Chapter 0344, effective May 2, 2025, & January 1, 2026.

Status:

Public PC344.pdf

Chapter:

Caption: AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 39 and Title 62, Chapter 35, relative to private protective services.

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Davis, Elaine; Rep. McCalmon, Jake; Rep. Powers, Dennis;

Effective Date: 05/02/25, 01/01/26

Position:**Priority:****Comment:**

SJR25 CRIMINAL LAW: Constitutional amendment - right to bail.



Sen. Johnson, Jack

Summary:

Removes the right to bail when the proof is evident or the presumption is great for the following offenses: act of terrorism, second degree murder, aggravated rape of a child, aggravated rape, grave torture, or any other offense for which a defendant could not be released prior to the expiration of at least 85% of the entire sentence.

Amendment

Summary:

Subcommittee

Amendments:

Fiscal Note:

Senate Status: 04/29/25 - Signed by Senate speaker.

House Status: 04/30/25 - Signed by House speaker.

Executive 04/21/25 - Sent to the speakers for signatures.

Status:

Public

Chapter:

Caption:

AG Opinion:

Cosponsors: Rep. Alexander, Rebecca; Rep. Atchley, Fred; Rep. Burkhart, Jeff; Rep. Capley, Kip; Rep. Carringer, Michele; Rep. Cepicky, Scott; Rep. Davis, Elaine; Rep. Eldridge, Rick; Rep. Gillespie, John; Rep. Hale, Michael; Rep. Hardaway, G.A.; Rep. Haston, Kirk; Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther; Rep. Hicks, Tim; Rep. Howell, Dan; Rep. Kumar, Sabi; Rep. Lamberth, William; Rep. Littleton, Mary; Rep. McCalmon, Jake; Rep. Parkinson, Antonio; Rep. Powers, Dennis; Sen. Powers, Bill; Rep. Raper, Kevin; Sen. Reeves, Shane; Sen. Rose, Paul; Rep. Rudder, Iris; Rep. Russell, Lowell; Rep. Sexton, Cameron; Rep. Slater, William; Sen. Stevens, John; Rep. Vital, Greg; Rep. White, Mark; Rep. Williams, Ryan; Rep. Zachary, Jason;

Effective Date:

Position: Oppose

Priority:

Comment: