

CHAPTER 2024-256

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 87

An act relating to taking of bears; providing a short title; creating s. 379.40411, F.S.; providing for the taking of bears without certain penalties under specified conditions; requiring the disposal of such bears by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; prohibiting certain possession, sale, and disposal of such bears or their parts; requiring the commission to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Self Defense Act.”

Section 2. Section 379.40411, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

379.40411 Taking of bears; use of lethal force in defense of person or certain property.—

(1) A person is not subject to any administrative, civil, or criminal penalty for taking a bear with lethal force if:

(a) The person reasonably believed that his or her action was necessary to avoid an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself or herself or to another, an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to a pet, or substantial damage to a dwelling as defined in s. 776.013(5);

(b) The person did not lure the bear with food or attractants for an illegal purpose, including, but not limited to, training dogs to hunt bears;

(c) The person did not intentionally or recklessly place himself or herself or a pet in a situation in which he or she would be likely to need to use lethal force as described in paragraph (a); and

(d) The person notified the commission within 24 hours after he or she used lethal force to take the bear.

(2) A bear taken under this section must be disposed of by the commission. A person who takes a bear under this section may not possess, sell, or dispose of the bear or its parts.

(3) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor June 21, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2024.