

HOUSE BILL 472

By Crawford

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39  
and Title 44, relative to shelter for dogs.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-202(a), is amended by  
deleting subdivision (2) and substituting:

(2)

(A) Fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, water, or care for an  
animal in the person's custody; or

(B)

(i) Fails unreasonably to provide necessary shelter for an animal  
other than a dog in the person's custody; or

(ii)

(a) Fails unreasonably to provide shelter in a structure that  
meets the following requirements for a dog in the person's  
custody:

(1) The structure is waterproof; constructed of  
steel, aluminum, or other sound and substantial material; is  
sufficient to protect the dog from inclement weather  
suitable for the age, breed, and physical condition of the  
dog; and is ventilated, insulated, and of a size appropriate  
to allow the dog to maintain normal body temperature;

(2) The structure has dimensions that allow the dog while in the shelter to stand erect, sit, turn around, and lie down in a normal position;

(3) The structure provides a solid surface, resting platform, pad, floormat, or similar device that is large enough for the dog to lie on in a normal manner and can be maintained in a sanitary manner;

(4) The structure prevents pain, suffering, or a significant risk to the dog's health; and

(5) During hot weather, the structure is properly shaded and during cold weather, the structure provides a quantity of bedding material that is sufficient to protect the dog from cold and promote the retention of body heat.

(b) The requirements in subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii)(a) do not apply to the space under buildings, decks, steps, or open crates and carriers designed for temporary housing unless modified to meet the requirements of subdivision (a)(2)(B)(ii)(a), including allowing the dog to retain normal body temperature;

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.