

HOUSE BILL 1742

By Sontany

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-212, relative to aggravated cruelty to animals.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-212(a), is amended by deleting the phrase "a companion" and substituting instead the word "an".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-212(b), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Aggravated cruelty" means conduct which is done or carried out in a depraved and sadistic manner and which tortures or maims an animal, and shall be construed to include knowingly failing to provide food and water to an animal resulting in the death of the animal or a substantial risk of death.

(2) "Elderly" means any person sixty-five (65) years of age or older; and

(3) "Minor" means any person under eighteen (18) years of age.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-212(c), is amended by deleting subdivision (3) in its entirety and renumbering the remaining subdivisions accordingly.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-212(e), is amended by deleting the phrase "companion animals as defined in subdivision (b)(2)," from the first sentence and substituting instead the phrase "animals,".

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.