

SENATE BILL 262

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13 and Title 70, relative to possession of a firearm in certain parks, and recreational, hunting, refuge and wildlife management areas.

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 adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(l)(i) Persons possessing a firearm while within the boundaries of any park located in this state that is owned or operated by any municipal, county or state government, or instrumentality thereof, if such person is authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1351;

(ii) To the extent permitted by federal law, persons possessing a firearm while within the boundaries of any park located in this state that is owned or operated by the federal government, or any instrumentality thereof, if such person is authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1351;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1359, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person from possessing a handgun while within the boundaries of any public park in this state if the person is authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1351.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, neither the department of environment and conservation nor any other entity of state or local government shall prohibit

any person from possessing a handgun while within the boundaries of any public park in this state, if such person is authorized to carry a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1351.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-117, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (d):

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), a person with a handgun carry permit pursuant to § 39-17-1351 may possess a handgun the entire year while on the premises of any refuge, public hunting area, wildlife management area or, to the extent permitted by federal law, national forest land maintained by the state. Nothing in this subsection shall authorize a person to use any handgun to hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-5-101, is amended by adding the following language as subsection (c) and by redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly:

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b), a person with a handgun carry permit pursuant to § 39-17-1351 may possess a handgun the entire year while on the premises of any refuge, public hunting area or wildlife management area or, to the extent permitted by federal law, national forest land maintained by the state. Nothing in this subsection shall authorize a person to use any handgun to hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.