

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to taking of bears; providing a short
 3 title; creating s. 379.40411, F.S.; providing for the
 4 taking of bears without certain permits or
 5 authorizations under specified conditions; providing
 6 applicability; providing an exemption from penalties;
 7 requiring certain notification of such taking;
 8 prohibiting certain possession, sale, and disposal of
 9 such bears; requiring the disposal of such bears by
 10 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission;
 11 requiring the commission to adopt rules; providing an
 12 effective date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
 16 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Self Defense
 17 Act."

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

20 379.40411 Taking of bears; use of lethal force in defense
 21 of person.-

22 (1)(a) The use of lethal force to take a bear without a
 23 permit or authorization required under this chapter is justified
 24 if a person feels threatened and believes that using such force
 25 is necessary to protect himself or herself on his or her private

HB 1587

2023

26 property.

27 (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply if a person
28 intentionally:

29 1. Lures a bear with food or attractants for an illegal
30 purpose, including, but not limited to, training dogs to hunt
31 bears; or

32 2. Provokes a bear to incite an attack.

33 (2) A person who takes a bear in accordance with
34 subsection (1):

35 (a) Is not subject to any administrative, civil, or
36 criminal penalties.

37 (b) Must notify the commission within 24 hours after the
38 taking.

39 (c) May not possess, sell, or dispose of the taken bear or
40 its parts.

41 (3) A bear taken under this section must be disposed of by
42 the commission.

43 (4) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
44 section.

45 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.