

By the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; and Senator Simon

601-02484-24

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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 an exemption from penalties; requiring certain
7 notification of such taking; prohibiting certain
8 possession, sale, and disposal of such bears;
9 requiring the disposal of such bears by the Fish and
10 Wildlife Conservation Commission; requiring the
11 commission to adopt rules; providing an effective
12 date.

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

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

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

19 379.40411 Taking of bears; use of lethal force in defense
20 of person.—

21 (1) The use of lethal force to take a bear without a permit
22 or authorization required under this chapter is justified if a
23 person reasonably believes that using such force is necessary to
24 protect his or her private property or to prevent imminent death
25 or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another on his or
26 her private property.

27 (2) A person who takes a bear in accordance with subsection
28 (1):

29 (a) Is not subject to any administrative, civil, or

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30 criminal penalties.

31 (b) Must notify the commission within 24 hours after the
32 taking.

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

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

37 (4) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
38 section.

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