

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; and Senators Simon and Collins

594-03091-24

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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 penalties under
5 specified conditions; requiring the disposal of such
6 bears by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
7 Commission; prohibiting certain possession, sale, and
8 disposal of such bears or their parts; requiring the
9 commission to adopt rules; providing an effective
10 date.

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

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

15 Section 2. Section 379.40411, Florida Statutes, is created
16 to read:

17 379.40411 Taking of bears; use of lethal force in defense
18 of person or certain property.—

19 (1) A person is not subject to any administrative, civil,
20 or criminal penalty for taking a bear with lethal force if:

21 (a) The person reasonably believed that his or her action
22 was necessary to avoid an imminent threat of death or serious
23 bodily injury to himself or herself or to another, an imminent
24 threat of death or serious bodily injury to a pet, or
25 substantial damage to a dwelling as defined in s. 776.013(5);

26 (b) The person did not lure the bear with food or
27 attractants for an illegal purpose, including, but not limited
28 to, training dogs to hunt bears;

29 (c) The person did not intentionally or recklessly place

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30 himself or herself or a pet in a situation in which he or she
31 would be likely to need to use lethal force as described in
32 paragraph (a); and

33 (d) The person notified the commission within 24 hours
34 after he or she used lethal force to take the bear.

35 (2) A bear taken under this section must be disposed of by
36 the commission. A person who takes a bear under this section may
37 not possess, sell, or dispose of the bear or its parts.

38 (3) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
39 section.

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