

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.

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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
 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

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, 2024.