

By Senator Simon

3-01682-24

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

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

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

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30 2. Provokes a bear to incite an attack.

31 (2) A person who takes a bear in accordance with subsection
32 (1):

33 (a) Is not subject to any administrative, civil, or
34 criminal penalties.

35 (b) Must notify the commission within 24 hours after the
36 taking.

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

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

41 (4) The commission shall adopt rules to implement this
42 section.

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