



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 791

HOUSE BILL NO. 1909

By Representatives Bulso, Barrett, Butler, Capley, Todd, Cochran, Davis, Moody, Powers, Alexander, White, Sherrell

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1868

By Senators Hensley, Bailey, Bowling, Crowe, Jackson, Lowe, Stevens, White

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 49, relative to self-defense.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known as the "Laken Riley Act of 2024."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1309, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(f)

(1) As used in this subsection (f), "non-lethal weapon" means pepper spray, a pepper spray gun, pepper gel, mace, a stun gun, an electronic control device, or other conducted energy device.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (b) or another law to the contrary:

(A) Except as provided in subdivisions (f)(2)(B) and (C), a public college or university or other public institution of higher education, shall not prohibit an adult person, including, but not limited to, a staff member, student, employee, and other adult person lawfully present on the property of the college, university, or institution from carrying a non-lethal weapon for purposes of self-defense when in any building or bus, on the campus, grounds, recreation area, athletic field, or any other property owned, operated, or while in use by any college or university board of trustees, regents, or directors for the administration of any public higher educational institution.

(B) A public college or university or other public institution of higher education may prohibit the carrying of non-lethal weapons on the grounds of any pre-kindergarten through grade twelve (pre-K-12) school located on its campus.

(C) A public college or university or other public institution of higher education may prohibit the carrying of non-lethal weapons in any building where armed security is provided or where such carrying is prohibited by contract.

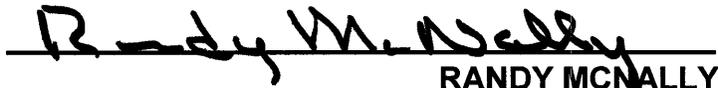
SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 4, 2024



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 23rd day of April 2024



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR