

STATE OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 606

HOUSE BILL NO. 961

**By Representatives Bell, McCord, Tindell, Todd, Ulysses Jones, Evans, Rich, Lollar, Weaver, Dennis, Halford, Shipley, Hensley, Hawk, Jim Cobb, Hill, Campfield, Faulkner, Fraley, McCormick, Lundberg, Montgomery, Carr, Eldridge and Mr. Speaker Williams**

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1519

By Senators Burchett, Jackson, Johnson, Beavers, Tracy, Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13 and Title 70, relative to possession of a firearm in certain recreational, hunting, refuge and wildlife management areas.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-117, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (d):

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a person with a handgun carry permit pursuant to § 39-17-1351 may possess a handgun the entire year while on the premises of any refuge, public hunting area, wildlife management area or, to the extent permitted by federal law, national forest land maintained by the state. Nothing in this subsection (d) shall authorize a person to use any handgun to hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

(e) Nothing in this section shall authorize a person with a hand gun carry permit to possess such weapon in the portion of any refuge, public hunting area or wildlife management area that is within the boundaries of a state park or state natural area unless otherwise authorized in accordance with state law.

(f) Nothing in this section shall authorize a person to access any area unless such person is in full compliance with all current wildlife laws, rules, proclamations and regulations.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-5-101, is amended by adding the following language as subsection (c) and by redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly:

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), a person with a handgun carry permit pursuant to § 39-17-1351 may possess a handgun the entire year while on the premises of any refuge, public hunting area or wildlife management area or, to the extent permitted by federal law, national forest land maintained by the state. Nothing in this subsection (c) shall authorize a person to use any handgun to

hunt unless such person is in full compliance with all wildlife laws, rules and regulations.

(d) Nothing in this section shall authorize a person with a hand gun carry permit to possess such weapon in the portion of any refuge, public hunting area or wildlife management area that is within the boundaries of a state park or state natural area unless otherwise authorized in accordance with state law.

(e) Nothing in this section shall authorize a person to access any area unless such person is in full compliance with all current wildlife laws, rules, proclamations and regulations.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: June 18, 2009**

  
KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 9th day of July 2009**

  
PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR