

**SENATE BILL 494**

By Stevens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44,  
Chapter 17 and Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 1, relative  
to the possession of firearms.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-103(b), is amended by adding the following immediately before the period:

; except that, a person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun may carry a handgun as defined in § 39-11-106, so long as the handgun is not used for the taking of game

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-112(a)(1), is amended by adding the following immediately before the period of the second sentence:

; except that, a person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun may carry a handgun as defined in § 39-11-106, so long as the handgun is not used for the taking of game

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-112(a)(2)(A), is amended by deleting the sentence "Within such training season, no person chasing coons with dogs shall use or carry any firearms, axes or climbing instruments except during such open season as may be proclaimed pursuant to this section." and substituting:

Within such training season, a person chasing coons with dogs shall not use or carry any firearms, axes, or climbing instruments except during such open season as may be proclaimed pursuant to this section; except that, a person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun may carry a handgun as defined in § 39-11-106, so long as the handgun is not used for the taking of game.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-117(d), is amended by deleting "with a handgun carry permit pursuant to § 39-17-1351 may possess a handgun" and substituting "not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun may carry a handgun as defined in § 39-11-106".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-117(e), is amended by deleting "with a hand gun carry permit" and substituting "not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-123, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting:

It is unlawful for a person hunting big game with a bow and arrow to be in possession of a firearm or be accompanied in hunting by a person possessing a firearm during the archery-only deer season; except that, a person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun may carry a handgun as defined in § 39-11-106, so long as the handgun is not used for the taking of game.

SECTION 7. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.

Amendment No. 1 to SB0494

Gardenhire  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 494**

**House Bill No. 395\***

by deleting SECTION 3 and substituting:

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-112(a)(2)(A), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(A) Notwithstanding this section, this part or any public or private act to the contrary, in Morgan County and in counties that are located entirely east of U.S. Highway 27, the commission shall establish a minimum training season of not less than six (6) months each year, within which period raccoon dogs may be trained. Such raccoon dog training season shall not commence earlier than June 1 of each year. Such six-month period need not be consecutive. Within such training season, a person chasing raccoons with dogs shall not use or carry any firearms, axes, or climbing instruments except during such open season as may be proclaimed pursuant to this section; except that, a person who is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a handgun may carry a handgun, as defined in § 39-11-106, so long as the handgun is not used for the taking of game. No raccoon shall be killed or taken except during such open season. No raccoon shall be shot at any time in the year either from a boat or any type of motor vehicle. The commission shall establish a minimum raccoon hunting season of not less than six (6) weeks each year, which season shall not commence sooner than November 1 of each year. Such six-week period need not be consecutive. The commission has the authority to extend the training season or hunting season, or both, to such additional periods of time as it deems justified based on the raccoon population in the area involved in any section or sections of the state.

**AND FURTHER AMEND** by inserting the following new sections immediately preceding the last section and renumbering the subsequent section accordingly:

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-112(a)(1), is amended by deleting the language "coon" wherever it appears and substituting instead "raccoon".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-122, is amended by deleting the language "coon" wherever it appears and substituting instead "raccoon".