

2026 Legislation

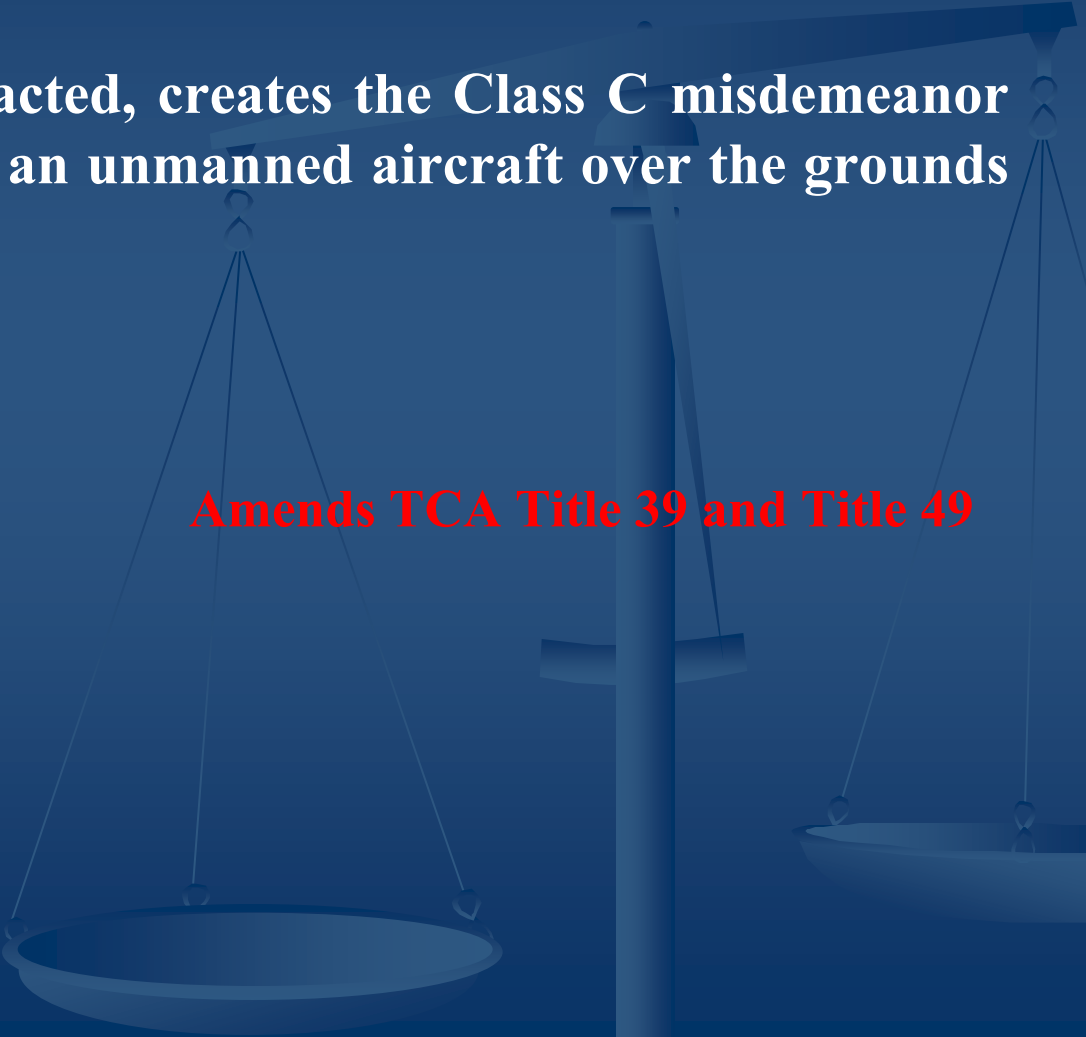


William Lamberth
State Representative

PUB. CH. 868

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates the Class C misdemeanor offense of knowingly using an unmanned aircraft over the grounds of a school.

Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 49

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PUB. CH. 771

Immigration - As enacted, creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally failing or refusing to depart when a final order of removal is outstanding; creates the Class A misdemeanor of intentionally entering, attempting to enter, or being found in this state after being denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed from the United States.

Amends TCA Title 4; Title 7; Title 38; Title 39; Title 40 and Title 41

PUB. CH. 1070

Immigration - As enacted, creates certain offenses for a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state and a direct employer of such person; requires the law enforcement agency of an officer who arrests a person who is unlawfully present in the United States to operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state to ensure that federal immigration authorities are notified; creates related civil actions for persons injured by an unlawfully present person's operation of a commercial motor vehicle.

Amends TCA Title 55, Chapter 50

PUB. CH. 766

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, makes it a class A misdemeanor for a virtual kiosk operator or other person to knowingly install or allow installation of, permit, place, or otherwise operate a virtual currency kiosk in this state.

Amends TCA Title 4; Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 12; Title 13; Title 29; Title 39; Title 45; Title 47 and Title 67

PUB. CH. 1109

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates a Class E felony offense when a person, for the purpose of deriving a pecuniary benefit, engages in conduct intended to influence the occurrence or nonoccurrence of an event while the person, or another acting in active concert with the person, is a party to a contract traded on a prediction-market by which the person will derive such pecuniary benefit directly from the settlement of that contract based on the occurrence or a nonoccurrence of the event.

Amends TCA Title 39

PUB. CH. 1021

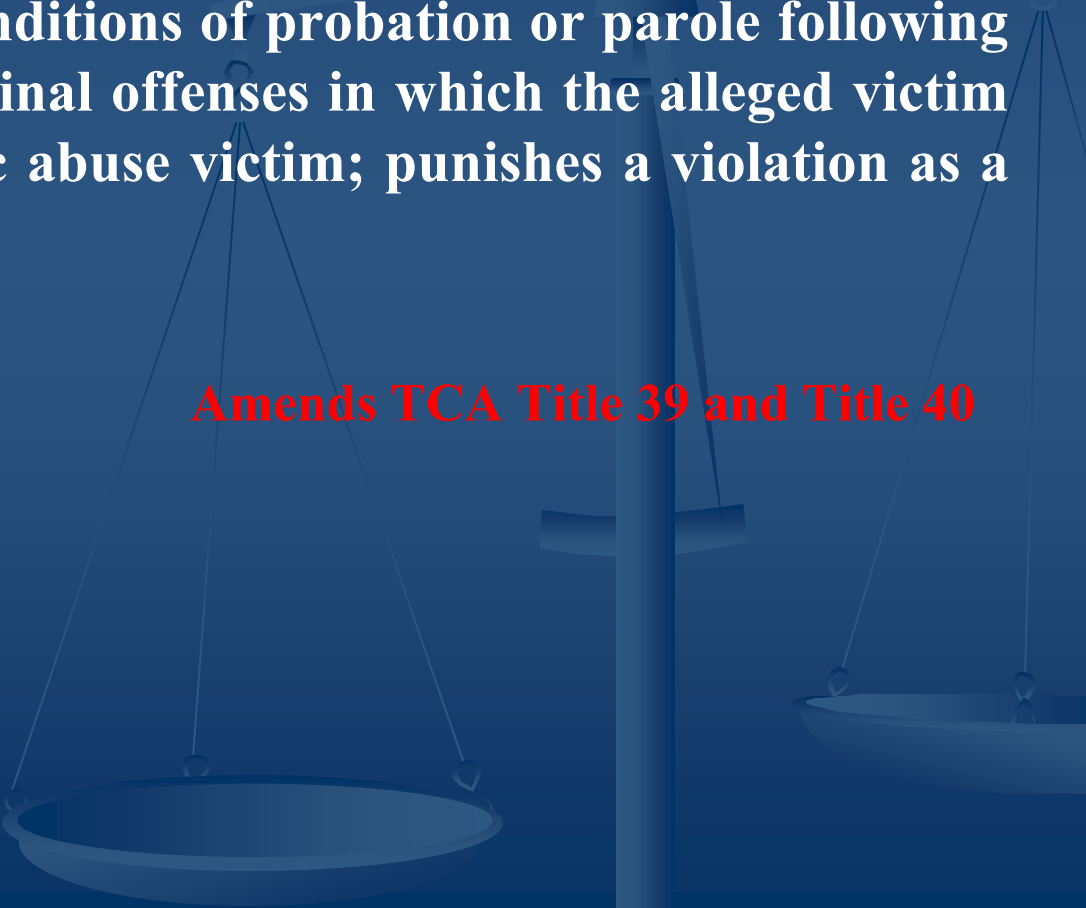
Sexual Offenses - As enacted, provides that a person commits the offense of grooming of a minor when the person engages in a course of grooming conduct directed at a minor with the specific intent to commit, or facilitate the commission by another person of, a sexual offense or violent sexual offense against the minor; or to cause or induce the minor to engage in simulated sexual activity that is patently offensive or sexual activity; makes related changes.

Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 40

PUB. CH. 949

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates a criminal offense of knowingly violating a no contact order issued as part of a defendant's sentence or conditions of probation or parole following conviction for certain criminal offenses in which the alleged victim of the offense is a domestic abuse victim; punishes a violation as a Class A misdemeanor.

Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 40

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PUB. CH. 1003

Children - As enacted, adds the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services, and one at large member with experience advocating for children, to the Tennessee second look commission; revises certain severe and aggravated child abuse offenses to include offenses involving strangulation; authorizes a court to order a child's custodian to submit certain documentation of compliance with preventative pediatric care consistent with the periodicity schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics in certain situations; authorizes the department of children's services to initiate a visit to ascertain the wellbeing of a child if such documentation contains allegations of abuse or neglect.

Amends TCA Title 37; Title 38; Title 39 and Title 40

PUB. CH. 1124

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, makes various changes relative to the offense of organized retail crime.

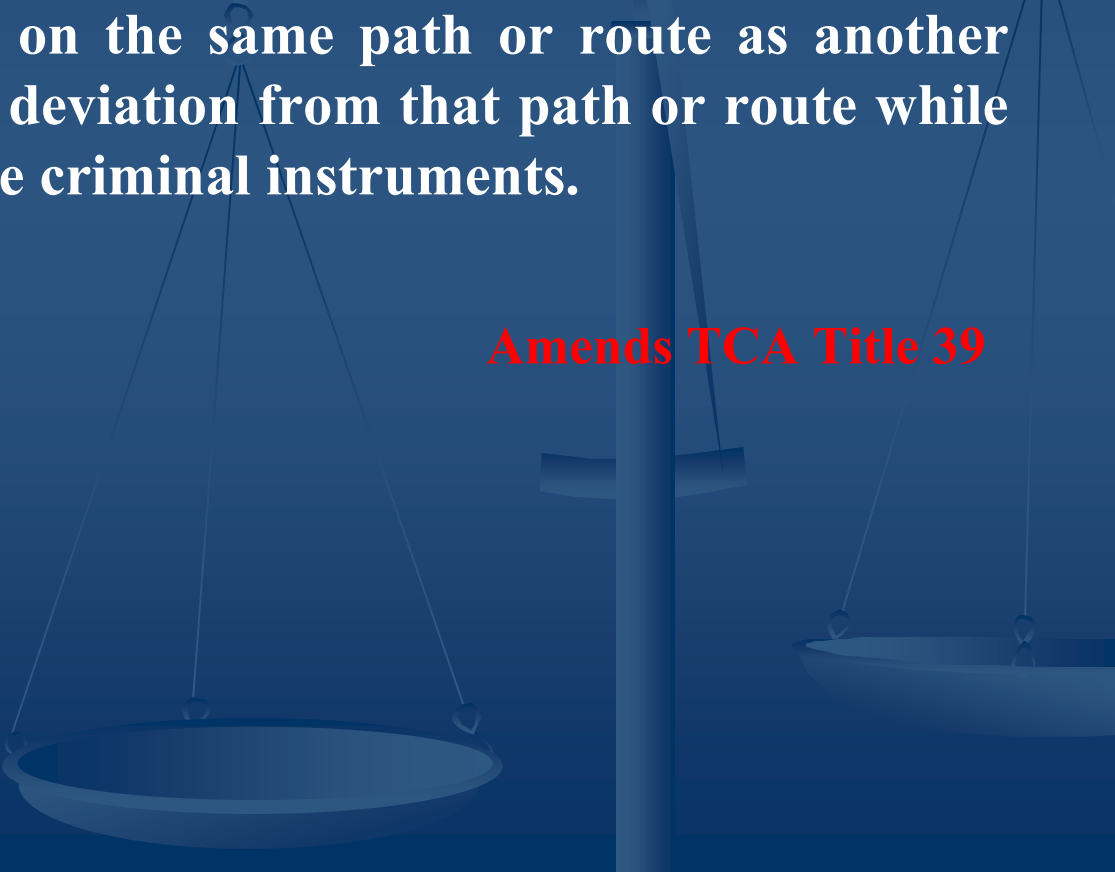
- Creates a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 days incarceration if defendant used or possessed a firearm, firearm ammunition, a firearm-related device, or an anti-theft device.
- Changes “organized retail crime” aggregation from 90 days to 180 days
- Adds knowingly using a mask, facial covering, or other concealment of identity to “organized retail crime” definition.
- Adds knowingly using a motor vehicle with no license plate; an altered, fake, or concealed plate, or a temp plate to “organized retail crime” definition.

Amends TCA Title 18; Title 38, Chapter 6, Part 1 and Title 39

PUB. CH. 951

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates the offense for a person to knowingly travel, with intent to commit theft of another person's cash, from a commercial business; a financial institution; or an automated teller machine, on the same path or route as another person without substantial deviation from that path or route while in possession of two or more criminal instruments.

Amends TCA Title 39

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PUB. CH. 1140

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, makes revisions to law relative to offenses occurring at a house of worship.

-Court must include in sentence, a fine of no less than 2 times the total amount of property damage or loss or cleaning and restoration expenses.

-Violation of 39-17-306(b) or (c) is Class E felony if first offense, Class C felony if second or subsequent offense

Amends TCA Title 29 and Title 39

PUB. CH. 1072

Sentencing - As enacted, enacts the "James Bardsley, Jr. Life Protection Act."

-A person involved in a motor accident who fails to stop or comply with state law to provide information and render aid, and knew or should reasonably have known that death resulted from the accident (Class E felony) must be punished by confinement for no less than 1 year, must serve 100%, and pay a fine of no less than \$5,000 and no more than \$10,000.

Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 13 and Title 55, Chapter 10

PUB. CH. 950

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, enacts "Matthew Davenport's Law," which creates certain criminal offenses and testing requirements related to Kratom.

-Creates certain criminal offenses and testing requirements related to Kratom. Classifies the offense of possessing Kratom as a Class A misdemeanor.

-Classifies the offenses of manufacturing, delivering, or selling Kratom or possessing with intent to manufacture, deliver, or sell as Class C felonies. However, felonies are raised to Class B if violation involved delivery or sale of Kratom to a minor from an adult who is at least 2 years older than the minor and the adult knew the person was a minor.

Amends TCA Title 33, Chapter 2; Title 38; Title 39; Title 50; Title 63 and Title 68

PUB. CH. 830

Courts, Juvenile - As enacted, expands the disposition allowed when a person under 21 is found to have unlawfully purchased, possessed, accepted receipt of, or presented fraudulent proof of age to purchase tobacco, smoking hemp, a vapor product, or a smokeless nicotine product to include requiring community service work, the successful completion of a prescribed court program, or placing the person on an informal adjustment for a period of 90 days for a first violation, and, for a second or subsequent violation, placing the person on probation for up to six months in addition to requiring community service and the successful completion of a prescribed court program focusing on the dangers of tobacco and vapor products.

Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 15

PUB. CH. 702

Drugs, Synthetic or Analogue - As enacted, enacts the "Nitrous Oxide Abuse Prevention and Retail Sale Prohibition Act"; makes related changes.

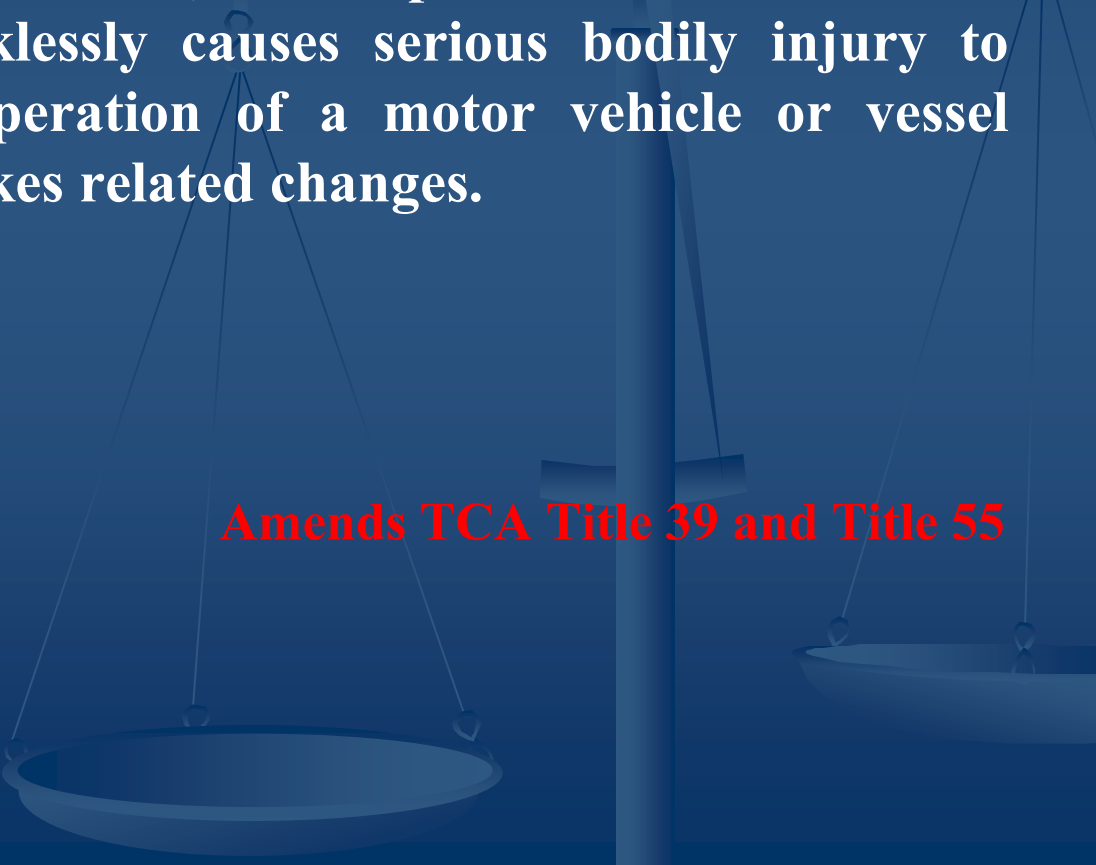
-Creates a Class E felony for retail sale of nitrous oxide for any purpose except the sale or offering for sale of nitrous oxide by a manufacturer, distributor, or wholesaler for medical or dental purposes or to implement the distribution of beverages or other foodstuffs for commercial purposes.

Amends TCA Title 39; Title 57, Chapter 7; Title 63 and Title 67, Chapter 4, Part 10

PUB. CH. 875

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, defines "seriously bodily injury" for the purposes of the present law offense of vehicular assault, which occurs when a person who, as the proximate result of the person's intoxication, recklessly causes serious bodily injury to another person by the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel subject to registration; makes related changes.

Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 55

A faint, stylized illustration of a balance scale is visible in the background. The scale is positioned vertically, with its central pillar and horizontal beam. Two pans are suspended from the beam by thin lines. The scale is rendered in a light blue color, matching the overall theme of the slide.

PUB. CH. 918

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates a Class A misdemeanor offense when a person operates an unmanned aircraft within 400 feet of or above a ticketed entertainment event; makes related changes.

Amends TCA Title 8; Title 10; Title 33; Title 36; Title 37; Title 38; Title 39; Title 40; Title 41; Title 49; Title 50; Title 55 and Title 70

PUB. CH. 1086

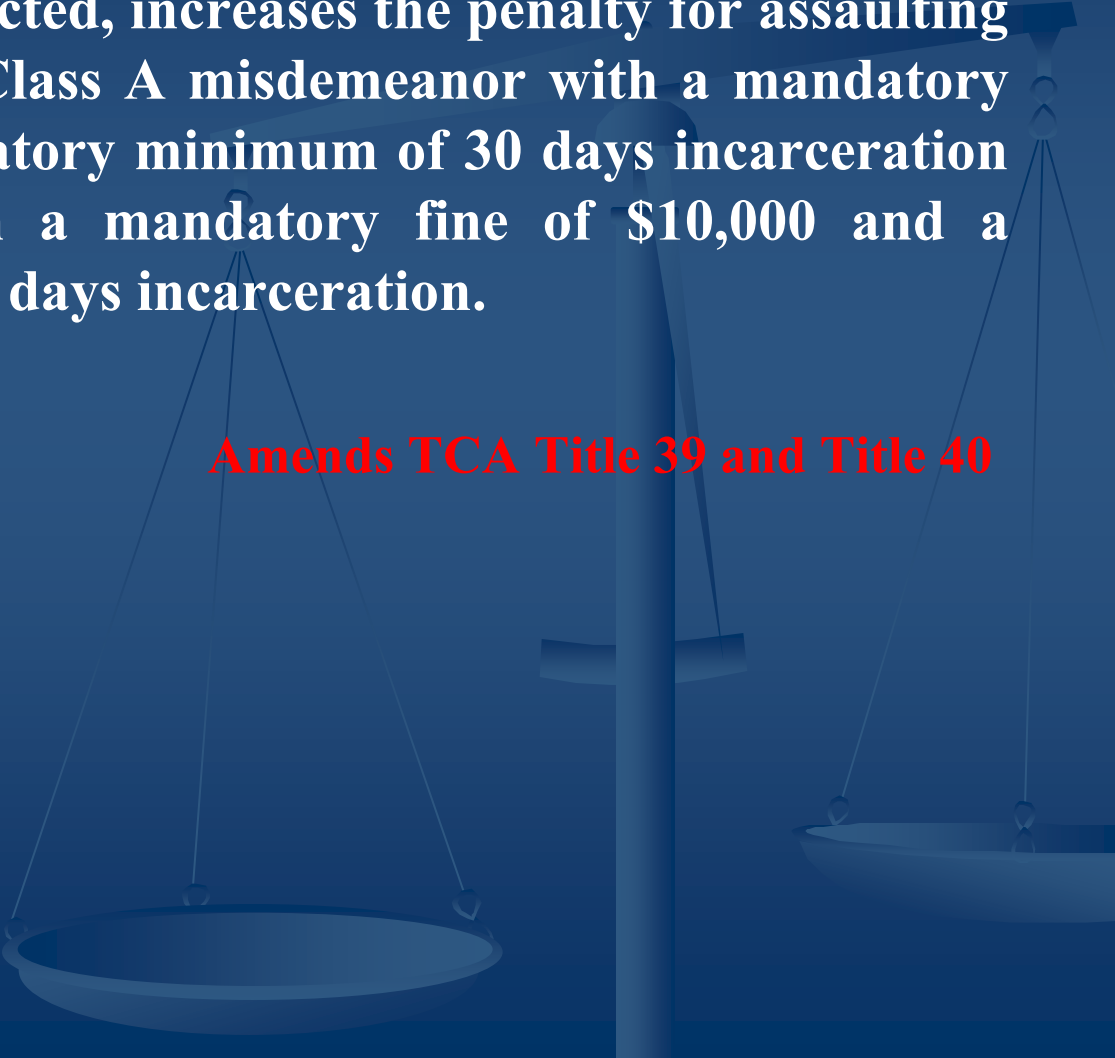
Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates an offense of recklessly discharging a firearm into the air, ground, a body of water, or an object in close proximity to the person if the firearm is discharged at a place of public gathering or at a public event where there are at least 25 people in attendance at the time of the discharge; punishes the offense as a Class A misdemeanor; specifies certain exceptions to the offense.

Amends TCA Title 39

PUB. CH. 1104

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, increases the penalty for assaulting a first responder from a Class A misdemeanor with a mandatory fine of \$5,000 and a mandatory minimum of 30 days incarceration to a Class E felony with a mandatory fine of \$10,000 and a mandatory minimum of 60 days incarceration.

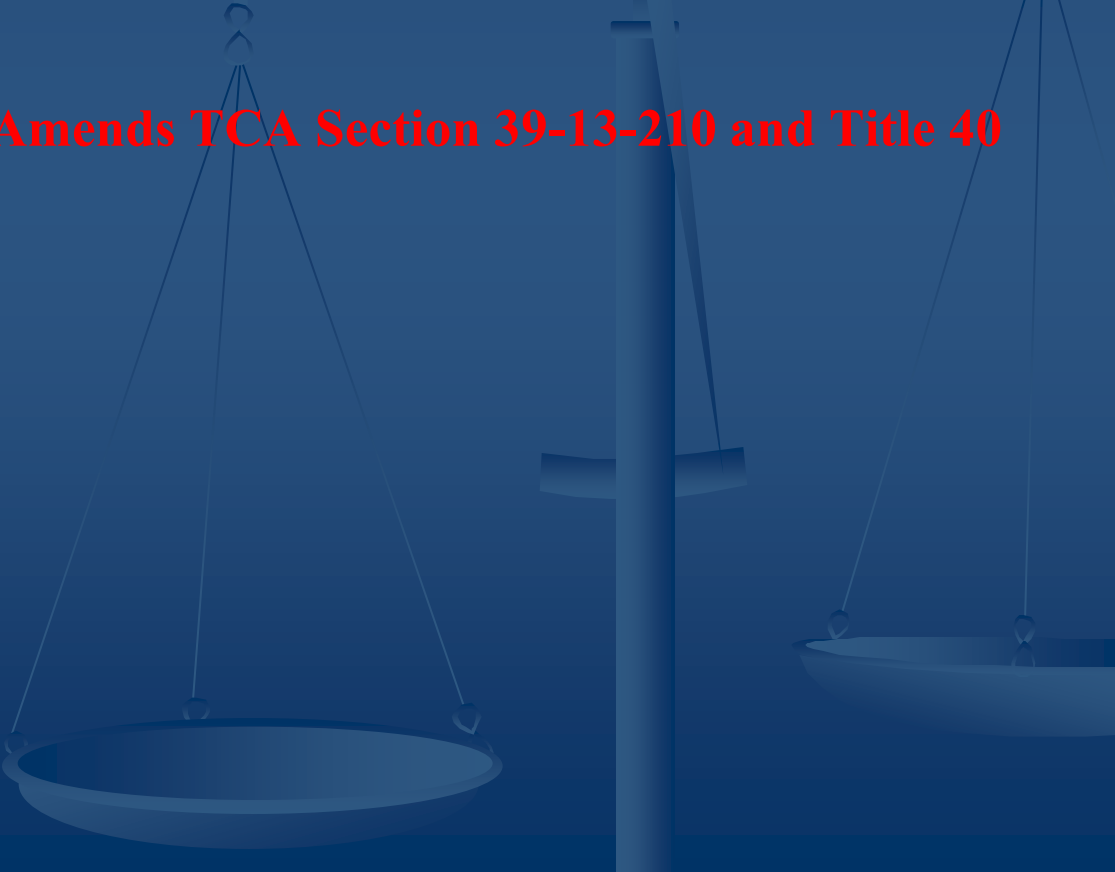
Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 40

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PUB. CH. 752

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, requires a person convicted of second degree murder by knowingly killing another to be sentenced as no lower than a Range II offender.

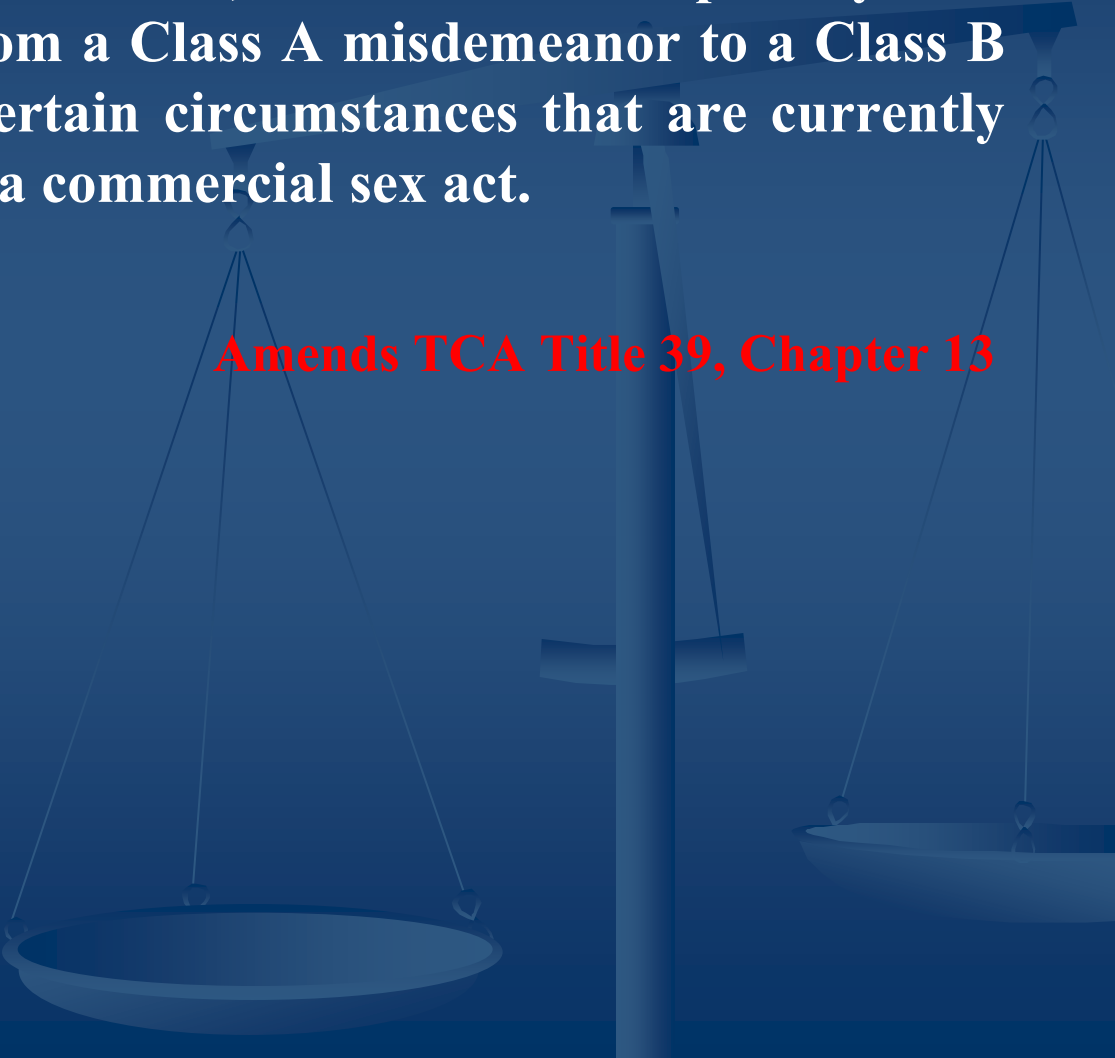
Amends TCA Section 39-13-210 and Title 40

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PUB. CH. 959

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, increases the penalty for patronizing prostitution from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B or Class A felony under certain circumstances that are currently punished as trafficking for a commercial sex act.

Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 13

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PUB. CH. 972

Sexual Offenders - As enacted, requires sexual offenders and violent sexual offenders to notify the owner or operator of any campground on which the offender intends to stay overnight of the offender's status as a sexual offender or violent sexual offender prior to beginning the stay; creates the offense of knowingly staying overnight at a campground without providing the required notice, which is punished as a Class E felony.

Amends TCA Title 40, Chapter 39, Part 2

PUB. CH. 1131

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, makes revisions to the offense of adulteration of food, liquids, or pharmaceuticals.

-Adds that is it an offense to adulterate a food product, liquid, or pharmaceutical product with the intent to cause the involuntary intoxication of the user of the product or liquid. A violation is a Class D felony.

Amends TCA Title 39; Title 40 and Title 57

PUB. CH. 777

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, enacts the "Crush Transnational Repression in Tennessee Act."

-Makes it an offense to intentionally engage in the prevention, detection, investigation, monitoring, surveilling, or prosecution of an offense under the law or rule of a foreign adversary or foreign terrorist organization in violation of the laws of this state or the United States without the knowledge and approval of a state or federal law enforcement agency that is authorized to give such approval.

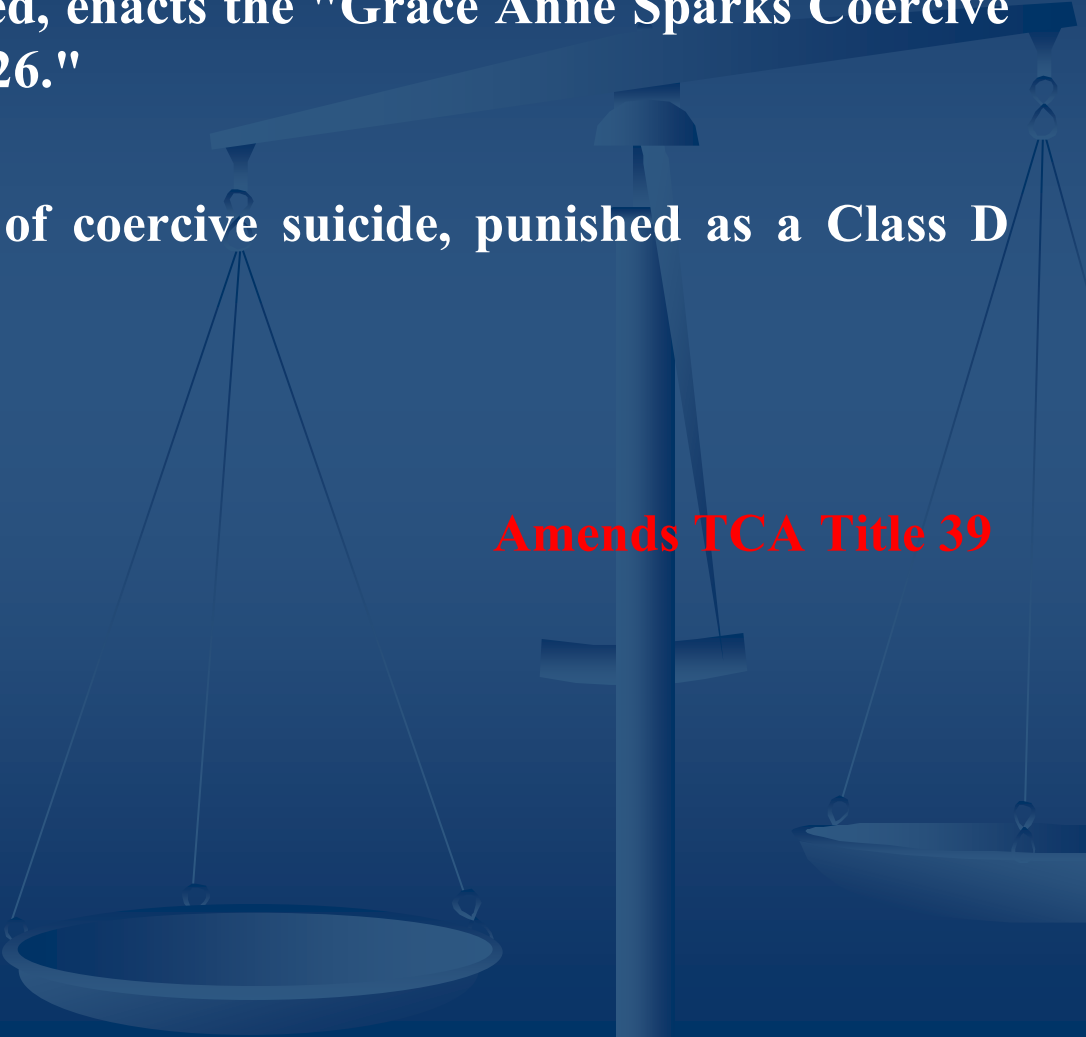
Amends TCA Title 4; Title 38 and Title 39

PUB. CH. 1098

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, enacts the "Grace Anne Sparks Coercive Suicide Prevention Law of 2026."

-Creates the offense of coercive suicide, punished as a Class D felony.

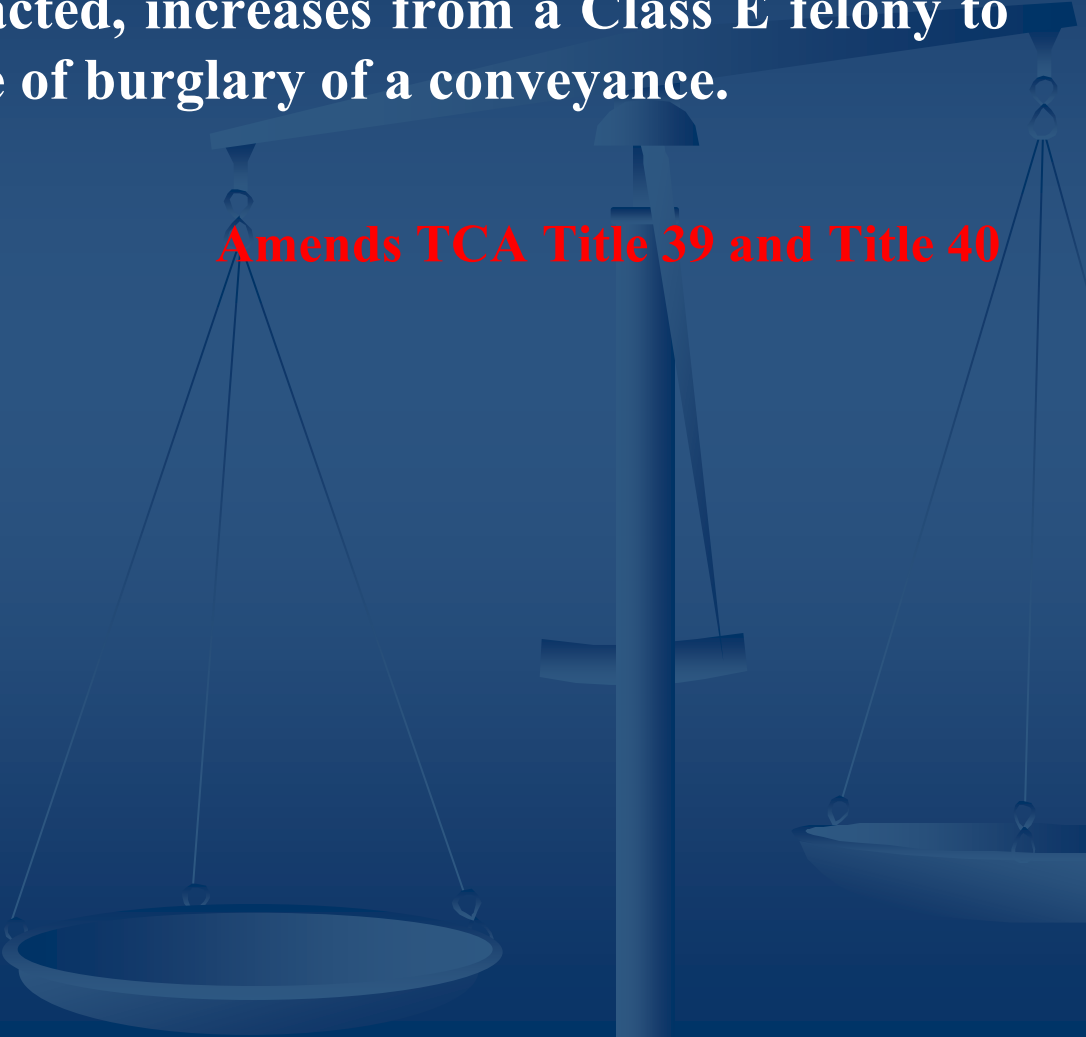
Amends TCA Title 39



PUB. CH. 930

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, increases from a Class E felony to a Class D felony the offense of burglary of a conveyance.

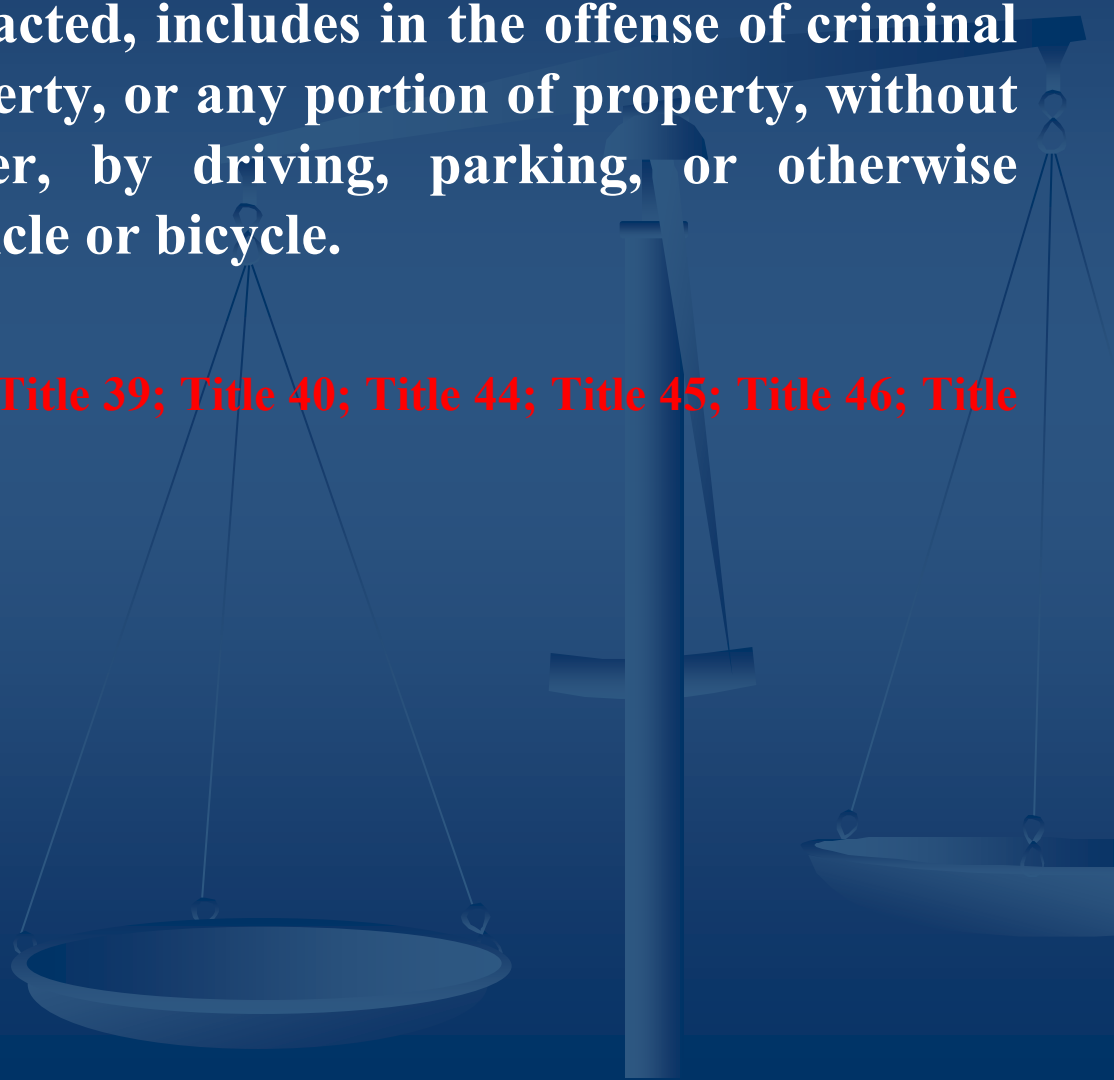
Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 40



PUB. CH. 907

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, includes in the offense of criminal trespass intrusion on property, or any portion of property, without the consent of the owner, by driving, parking, or otherwise operating a motorized vehicle or bicycle.

Amends TCA Title 11; Title 29; Title 39; Title 40; Title 44; Title 45; Title 46; Title 59; Title 66; Title 68 and Title 70



PUB. CH. 625

Election Laws - As enacted, requires political advertisements to include a disclaimer if the advertisements include deepfake elements impersonating or depicting a candidate engaging in activity or speech in which the impersonated or depicted candidate did not in fact engage; makes a violation of such disclaimer requirement a Class C misdemeanor; entitles candidate to damages and equitable relief for violations.

Amends TCA Title 2, Chapter 19

PUB. CH. 1100

Firearms and Ammunition - As enacted, lowers the standard for the use of deadly force to protect property.

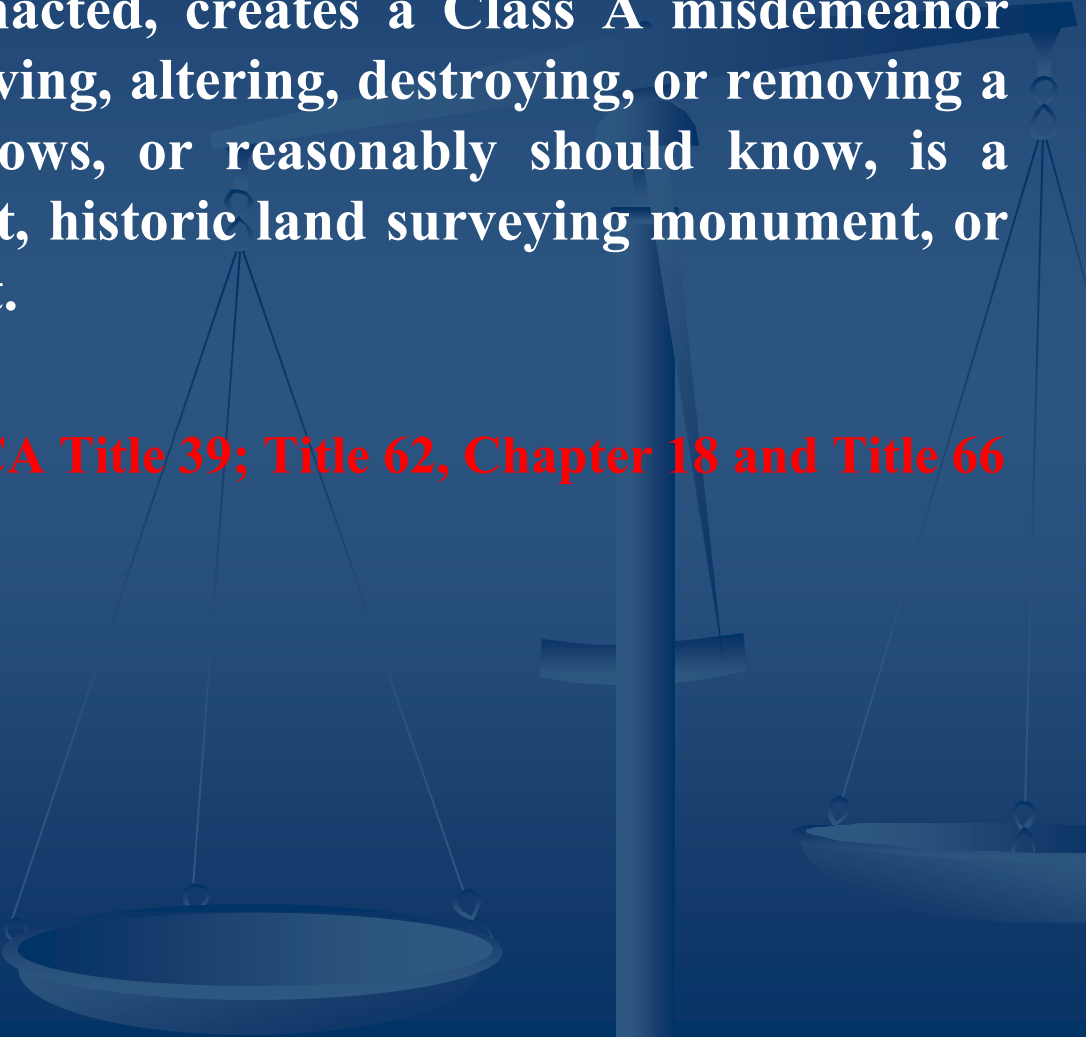
-A person not engaged in criminal conduct and in a place where they lawfully reside is justified in using deadly force against another to protect property if they reasonably believe deadly force is immediately necessary to prevent the other's imminent commission of arson, burglary, robbery, aggravated robbery, aggravated cruelty to animals, or if there is imminent danger to the person or a third person of death, serious bodily injury, or grave sexual abuse.

Amends TCA Title 39

PUB. CH. 1097

Criminal Offenses - As enacted, creates a Class A misdemeanor offense of intentionally moving, altering, destroying, or removing a monument the person knows, or reasonably should know, is a property corner monument, historic land surveying monument, or geodetic control monument.

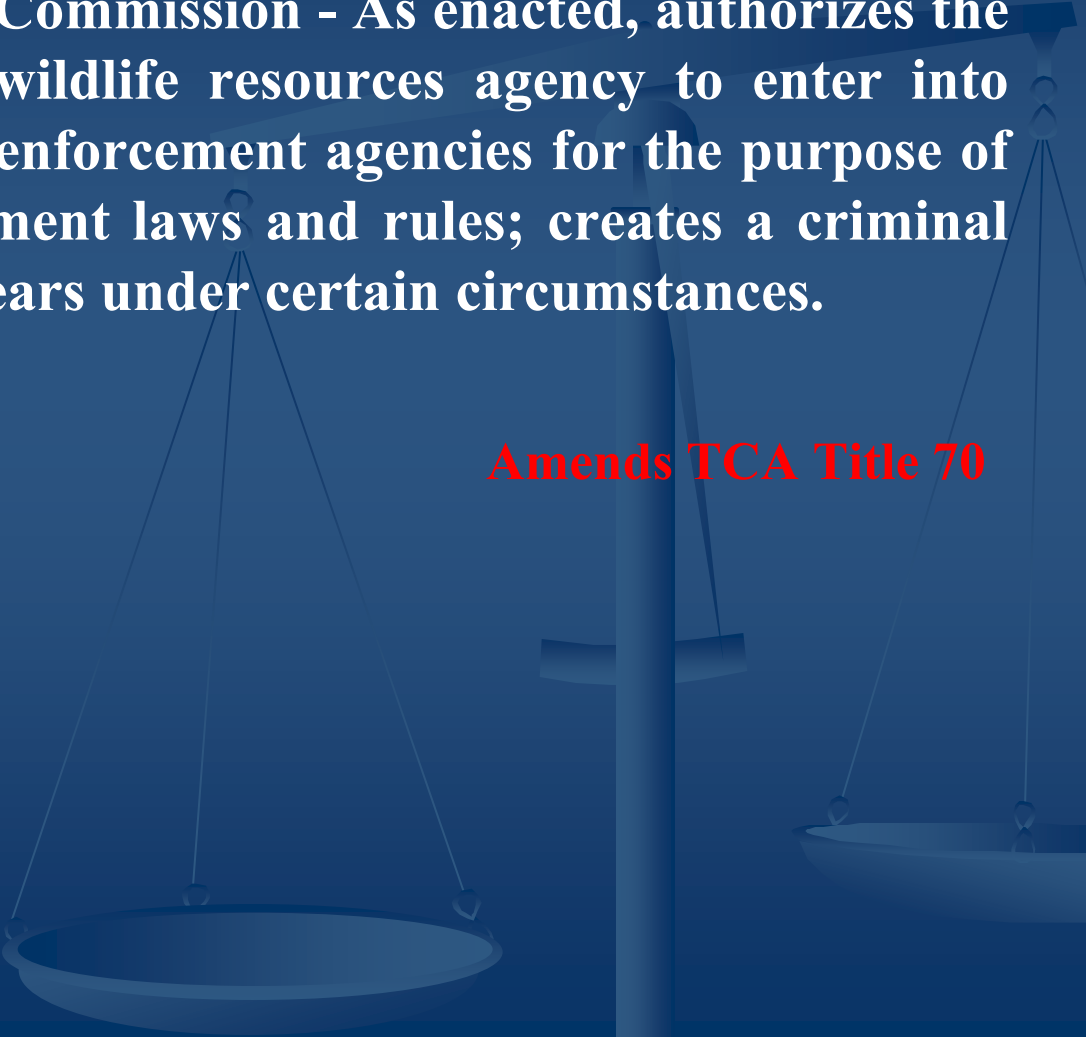
Amends TCA Title 39; Title 62, Chapter 18 and Title 66

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PUB. CH. 738

Tennessee Fish & Wildlife Commission - As enacted, authorizes the executive director of the wildlife resources agency to enter into agreements with local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of enforcing wildlife management laws and rules; creates a criminal offense for feeding black bears under certain circumstances.

Amends TCA Title 70

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PUB. CH. 974

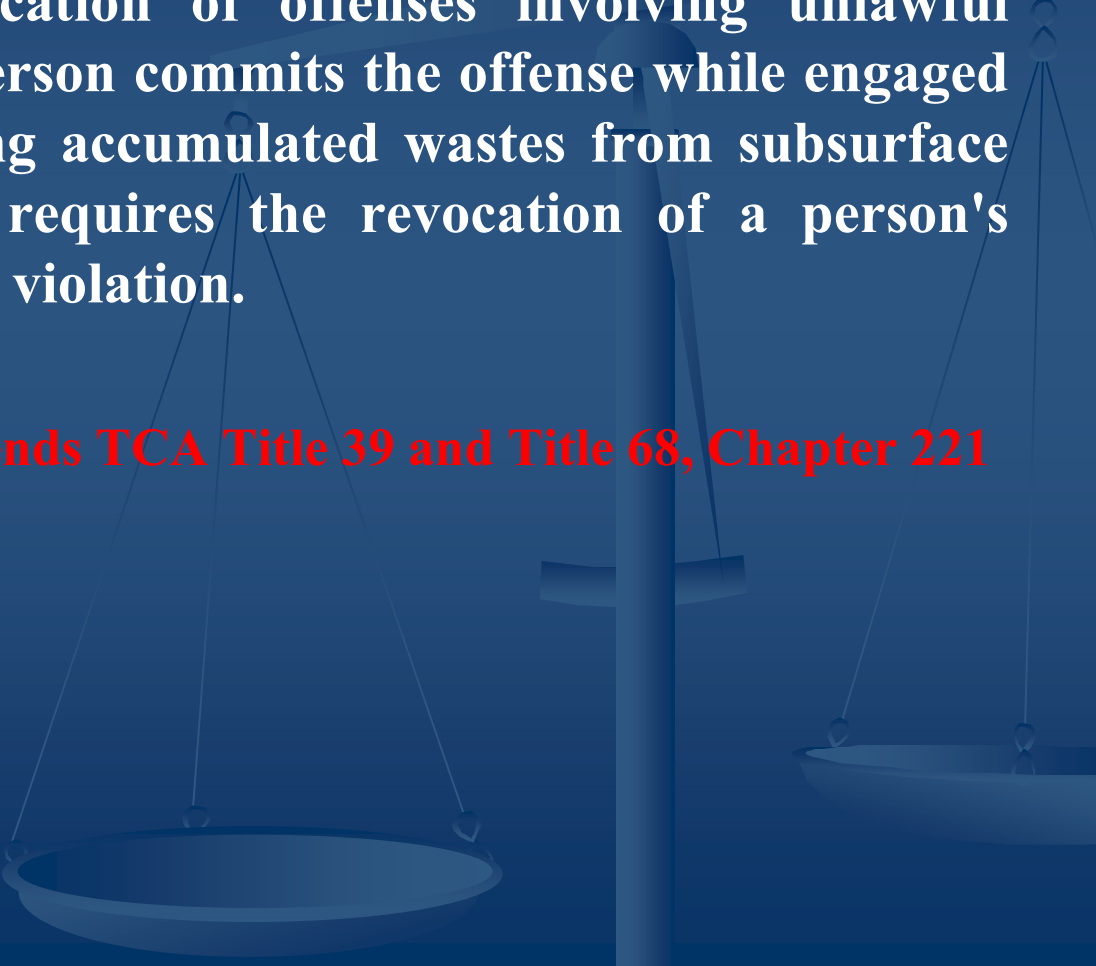
Animal Cruelty and Abuse - As enacted, adds starvation resulting in death of a livestock animal to the types of conduct that constitute the Class E felony of aggravated cruelty to a livestock animal, when done in a depraved and sadistic manner without justifiable or lawful purpose. *Necropsy required*

Amends TCA Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 2

PUB. CH. 763

Sewage - As enacted, increases, from a Class C to Class B misdemeanor, the classification of offenses involving unlawful disposal of sewage if the person commits the offense while engaged in the business of removing accumulated wastes from subsurface sewage disposal systems; requires the revocation of a person's waste removal permit for a violation.

Amends TCA Title 39 and Title 68, Chapter 221

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