

SENATE BILL 315  
By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13, relative to crimes committed while wearing a bullet-proof or bullet-resistant vest.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 13 is amended by adding the following new section:

Section \_\_\_\_.

(a) A person commits an offense who knowingly wears a body vest, when acting either alone or with one or more other persons, while committing:

(1) any felony whose statutory elements involve the use or threat of violence to a human being;

(2) any burglary; or

(3) any felony or misdemeanor offense involving a controlled substance.

(b) For purposes of this section, a "body vest" means a bullet-resistant soft armor providing, as a minimum standard, the level of protection known as threat level I which shall mean at least seven (7) layers of bullet-resistant material providing protection from three (3) shots of one hundred fifty-eight (158) grain lead ammunition fired from a .38 caliber handgun at a velocity of eight hundred fifty (850) feet per second.

(c) The unlawful wearing of a body vest is a Class E felony.

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(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the possession of a body vest for lawful purposes.

SECTION 2 . This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.