

SENATE BILL 1600

By Stevens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 44-8-413, relative to civil liability for injury caused by dogs.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 44-8-413(e), is amended by deleting subdivision (1) and substituting instead the following:

(1) "Owner" means a person who, at the time of the damage caused to another, regularly harbors, keeps, or exercises control over the dog, but does not include a person who, at the time of the damage, is temporarily harboring, keeping, or exercising control over the dog; provided, however, that land ownership alone is not enough to qualify a landowner as a regular harborer even if the landowner gave permission to a third person to keep the dog on the land; and

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, and shall apply to all cases tried on or after that date, the public welfare requiring it.