

HOUSE BILL 1605

By Howell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,  
relative to transportation.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) Southern Leopard frog;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) The general assembly finds that:

(1) The Southern Leopard frog is a mostly aquatic frog that can be found throughout Tennessee, with the exception of the higher elevations in East Tennessee;

(2) The Southern Leopard frog, striking in appearance, is generally green or light brown with dark brown or black spots that give it its distinctive name;

(3) The Southern Leopard frog is often encountered near ponds and lakes, but can also be found on the dissecting tables of eagerly nervous high school biology students;

(4) Although still not a creature of interest to budding iron chefs, the Southern Leopard frog is found on many southern menus for the cognoscenti who appreciate the delicate flavors of its lower limbs; and

(5) A voracious hunger propels the Southern Leopard frog to engulf many insects, including hordes of ubiquitous and noisome mosquitoes.

(b) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the state of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-204, must be issued a Southern Leopard frog new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(c) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section must contain a likeness of the Southern Leopard frog, must include the frog's scientific name "Lithobates sphenoccephalus," and must be designed in consultation with Tennessee wildlife resources agency.

(d) The funds produced from the sale of such new specialty earmarked license plates must be deposited in the wildlife resources fund established pursuant to § 70-1-401, to be used exclusively for management, protection, propagation, and conservation of fish and wildlife species, including the Southern Leopard frog, and the protection and enhancement of such species' habitats.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.