

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1554

5 By: Representatives Drown, Vaught, Baltz, D. Douglas, Gonzales, Hillman, Jean, Jett, McNair, Rushing,
6 Tosh

7 By: Senators Irvin, Standridge
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE REAL PROPERTY RIGHTS; TO
11 PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES,
12 AND HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS; TO DETER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY
13 ON A PERSON'S REAL PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR SEIZURE
14 AND FORFEITURE OF CERTAIN ITEMS AND CONVEYANCES USED
15 IN THE COMMISSION OF CERTAIN OFFENSES; CONCERNING THE
16 OFFENSE OF CRIMINAL TRESPASS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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19
20 CONCERNING PRIVATE REAL PROPERTY RIGHTS;
21 TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES,
22 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, AND HISTORICAL
23 ARTIFACTS; TO DETER CRIMINAL ACTIVITY ON
24 A PERSON'S REAL PROPERTY; AND CONCERNING
25 THE OFFENSE OF CRIMINAL TRESPASS.
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27

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
29

30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-5-201 is amended to read as follows:
31 5-5-201. Forfeiture requirement – Exceptions.

32 (a) Upon conviction, any conveyance, including an aircraft, motor
33 vehicle, or vessel is subject to forfeiture under this subchapter if it is
34 used in the commission or attempt of:

- 35 (1) A burglary;
36 (2) A robbery;



- 1 (3) A theft;
- 2 (4) An arson; or
- 3 (5) Trafficking of persons, § 5-18-103.

4 (b) However:

5 (1) ~~No~~ A conveyance used by any person as a common carrier in
 6 the transaction of business as a common carrier is not subject to forfeiture
 7 under this subchapter unless it appears that the owner or other person in
 8 charge of the conveyance was a consenting party or privy to the commission or
 9 attempt to commit the offense;

10 (2) ~~No~~ A conveyance is not subject to forfeiture under this
 11 subchapter by reason of any act or omission established by the owner of the
 12 conveyance to have been committed or omitted without his or her knowledge or
 13 consent and without the knowledge or consent of any person having possession,
 14 care, or control of the conveyance with the owner's permission; and

15 (3) A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a security
 16 interest is subject to the security interest of the secured party if the
 17 secured party neither had knowledge of nor consented to the use of the
 18 conveyance in the commission or attempt to commit the offense.

19 ~~(c)(1) An all-terrain vehicle used in the commission of~~

20 (c)(1) A person who uses or possesses one (1) or more of the following
 21 items or conveyances in the commission of a second or subsequent offense for
 22 criminal trespass, § 5-39-203, or criminal trespass on premises located in an
 23 unincorporated area, § 5-39-305, that occurs within five (5) years of a prior
 24 offense of criminal trespass, § 5-39-203, or criminal trespass on premises
 25 located in an unincorporated area, § 5-39-305, is subject to ~~seizure and~~
 26 ~~forfeiture~~ that item or conveyance being seized and forfeited under this
 27 subchapter.;

28 ~~(2) As used in this subsection, "all-terrain vehicle" means the~~
 29 ~~same as defined in § 27-21-102.~~

30 (A) An all-terrain vehicle, as defined under § 27-21-102;

31 (B) A conveyance, including an aircraft, motor vehicle, or
 32 vessel;

33 (C) A harvesting device, as defined under § 5-39-101;

34 (D) A killing device, as defined under § 5-39-101; or

35 (E) A tool or other implement.

36 (2) A person or entity that has a valid security interest in an

1 item or conveyance subject to seizure and forfeiture under this subsection is
2 entitled to notice of any forfeiture proceeding as well as the right to
3 intervene in the forfeiture proceeding in order to secure and represent the
4 person's or entity's interest in the item or conveyance to be forfeited.

5
6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-39-101, concerning definitions used for
7 the criminal offenses of burglary, trespass, and other intrusions, is amended
8 to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

9 (6) "Artifact" means an object produced or shaped by human
10 craft, such as a tool, weapon, coin, or ornament of archaeological, cultural,
11 or historical interest or significance;

12 (7) "Harvesting device" means a device or object used to collect
13 or accumulate or to assist in the collection or accumulation of an
14 agricultural resource or a natural resource in bulk;

15 (8) "Killing device" means a firearm, bladed weapon, fishing
16 implement, or other object, used in the hunting or fishing of wildlife; and

17 (9) "Natural resource" means materials or substances such as
18 minerals, timber, water, plants, and fertile land that occur in nature and
19 can be used for economic gain.

20
21 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-39-203 is amended to read as follows:

22 5-39-203. Criminal trespass.

23 (a) A person commits criminal trespass if he or she purposely enters
24 or remains unlawfully in or upon:

25 (1) A vehicle of another person; or

26 (2) The premises of another person.

27 (b) Criminal trespass is a:

28 (1) Class D felony if the person has two (2) or more convictions
29 for a Class A misdemeanor violation of this section or § 5-39-305;

30 (2) Class A misdemeanor if:

31 (A) At the time of the criminal trespass, the person is in
32 possession of one (1) or more of the following:

33 (i) A killing device;

34 (ii) A harvesting device;

35 (iii) A device primarily used for the location and
36 unearthing of buried or submerged artifacts; or

1 (iv) A tool designed to gain entry into a structure
 2 by breaking a lock or breaking through a fence, including without limitation
 3 a boltcutter;

4 (B) The person is on premises containing a commercial
 5 fishing or fish breeding operation and at that time is in possession of a
 6 fishing pole or net designed to capture fish; or

7 (C) The person has a prior conviction for a violation of
 8 this section;

9 ~~(1)~~(3) Class B misdemeanor if:

10 (A) The vehicle or premises involved is an occupiable
 11 structure; or

12 (B) The conduct involves the removal of a posted sign, a
 13 fence, or a portion of a fence as defined in § 2-39-102; or

14 ~~(2)~~(4) Class C misdemeanor if otherwise committed.

15 (c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that:

16 (1) The person was a guest or invitee;

17 (2) The person was required to enter upon the premises of the
 18 other person for a business reason or for health and safety reasons;

19 (3) The person was authorized by law to enter upon the premises;

20 (4) The privately owned premises were made open to the public;

21 or

22 (5) The person owns or is employed by a person or entity that
 23 owns property adjoining the premises and is traveling over the premises with
 24 good faith or for a legitimate reason.

25 (d) This section does not apply to the following persons who are
 26 acting in the line of duty or within the scope of their employment:

27 (1) A law enforcement officer;

28 (2) A wildlife officer;

29 (3) A firefighter;

30 (4) An emergency first responder;

31 (5) An employee of a state agency, court, or school, tasked with
 32 monitoring, supervising, or making direct contact with a minor or the parents
 33 of a minor concerning the well-being of the minor; or

34 (6) An employee of a federal, state, or local agency,
 35 commission, board, political subdivision, school district, or municipality
 36 who has entered onto or remains on the premises for a purpose directly

1 relating to the employee's employment with the federal, state, or local
 2 agency, commission, board, political subdivision, school district, or
 3 municipality.

4 ~~(e)~~(e) ~~An individual~~ A person aggrieved by a violation of this section
 5 is granted a private cause of action against the person who violated this
 6 section and is entitled to recover:

- 7 (1) Actual damages caused by the violation;
- 8 (2) Reasonable attorney's fees; and
- 9 (3) Punitive damages.

10
 11 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 5-39-305 is amended to read as follows:

12 5-39-305. Criminal trespass on ~~land~~ premises located in unincorporated
 13 area.

14 (a)(1) A person shall not purposely enter without written permission
 15 of the owner or lessee upon another person's ~~land~~ premises located outside
 16 the boundary of any city or town if ~~that land is~~ those premises are either:

- 17 (A) Lawfully posted;
- 18 (B) Crop land or timber land; or
- 19 (C) Enclosed with a fence sufficient under § 2-39-101 et

20 seq.

21 (2) The posting of ~~land~~ premises is not a requirement under this
 22 section.

23 ~~(b)(1) Any person who violates this section is deemed guilty of a~~
 24 ~~violation and is subject to a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100).~~

25 ~~(2) However, a violation of this section is a Class B~~
 26 ~~misdemeanor if the property was posted pursuant to the laws of this state.~~

27 (b) Criminal trespass on premises located in an unincorporated area is
 28 a:

29 (1) Class D felony if the person has two (2) or more convictions
 30 for a Class A misdemeanor violation of this section or § 5-39-203;

31 (2) Class A misdemeanor if:

32 (A) At the time of the criminal trespass on premises
 33 located in an unincorporated area, the person is in possession of one (1) or
 34 more of the following:

- 35 (i) A killing device;
- 36 (ii) A harvesting device;

1 (iii) A device primarily used for the location and
 2 unearthing of buried or submerged artifacts; or

3 (iv) A tool designed to gain entry into a structure
 4 by breaking a lock or breaking through a fence, including without limitation
 5 a boltcutter;

6 (B) The person is on premises containing a commercial
 7 fishing or fish breeding operation and at that time is in possession of a
 8 fishing pole or net designed to capture fish; or

9 (C) The person has a prior conviction for a violation of
 10 this section;

11 (3) Class B misdemeanor if:

12 (A) The premises involved is an occupiable structure; or

13 (B) The conduct involves the removal of a posted sign, a
 14 fence, or a portion of a fence as defined in § 2-39-102; or

15 (4) Violation with a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars
 16 (\$100) if otherwise committed.

17 (c) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution that:

18 ~~(1) The person did not knowingly enter upon another person's~~
 19 ~~land;~~

20 ~~(2)~~(1) The person was a guest or invitee;

21 ~~(3)~~(2) The person was required to enter upon the premises of
 22 ~~another~~ the other person for a business reason or for health and safety
 23 reasons;

24 ~~(4)~~(3) The person was authorized by law to enter upon the ~~land~~
 25 premises; or

26 ~~(5)~~(4) The privately owned ~~land was~~ premises were made open to
 27 the public; or

28 (5) The person owns or is employed by a person or entity that
 29 owns property adjoining the premises and is traveling over the premises with
 30 good faith or for a legitimate reason.

31 (d)~~(1)~~ This section does not apply to:

32 (1) public ~~Public~~ land;

33 ~~(2) This section does not apply to a~~ A law enforcement or
 34 wildlife officer acting in the line of duty; or

35 (3) The following persons who are acting in the line of duty or
 36 within the scope of thier employment:

- 1 (A) A law enforcement officer;
- 2 (B) A wildlife officer;
- 3 (C) A firefighter;
- 4 (D) An emergency first responder;
- 5 (E) An employee of a state agency, court, or school,
6 tasked with monitoring, supervising, or making direct contact with a minor or
7 the parents of a minor concerning the well-being of the minor; or
- 8 (F) An employee of a federal, state, or local agency,
9 commission, board, political subdivision, school district, or municipality
10 who has entered onto or remains on the premises for a purpose directly
11 relating to the employee's employment with the federal, state, or local
12 agency, commission, board, political subdivision, school district, or
13 municipality.

14 (e) ~~Nothing in this~~ This section repeals does not repeal any law
15 concerning posting of land or trespass.

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