

As Introduced

135th General Assembly

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2023-2024

H. B. No. 62

Representative Humphrey

Cosponsors: Representatives Miller, A., Upchurch, Russo, Weinstein, Grim,
Isaacsohn, Skindell, Miranda, Brown, Somani, Forhan, Brent, Abdullahi

A BILL

To amend sections 2307.601, 2901.05, and 2901.09 of
the Revised Code to limit the locations at which
a person has no duty to retreat.

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

Section 1. That sections 2307.601, 2901.05, and 2901.09 of
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2307.601. (A) As used in this section:

(1) "Residence" ~~has and "vehicle" have the same meaning~~
meanings as in section 2901.05 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Tort action" has the same meaning as in section
2307.60 of the Revised Code.

(B) For purposes of determining the potential liability of
a person in a tort action related to the person's use of force
alleged to be in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of
the person's residence, if the person lawfully is in that
person's residence, the person has no duty to retreat before
using force in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of

that person's residence, and, if the person lawfully is an 17
occupant of that person-person's vehicle or lawfully is an 18
occupant in a place in which vehicle owned by an immediate 19
family member of the person-lawfully, the person has a right-no 20
duty to-be retreat before using force in self-defense or defense 21
of another. 22

~~(C) A trier of fact shall not consider the possibility of~~ 23
~~retreat as a factor in determining whether or not a person who~~ 24
~~used force in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of~~ 25
~~that person's residence reasonably believed that the force was~~ 26
~~necessary to prevent injury, loss, or risk to life or safety.~~ 27

Sec. 2901.05. (A) Every person accused of an offense is 28
presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, 29
and the burden of proof for all elements of the offense is upon 30
the prosecution. The burden of going forward with the evidence 31
of an affirmative defense, and the burden of proof, by a 32
preponderance of the evidence, for an affirmative defense other 33
than self-defense, defense of another, or defense of the 34
accused's residence ~~presented~~ as described in division (B)(1) of 35
this section, is upon the accused. 36

(B)(1) A person is allowed to act in self-defense, defense 37
of another, or defense of that person's residence. If, at the 38
trial of a person who is accused of an offense that involved the 39
person's use of force against another, there is evidence 40
presented that tends to support that the accused person used the 41
force in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of that 42
person's residence, the prosecution must prove beyond a 43
reasonable doubt that the accused person did not use the force 44
in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of that person's 45
residence, as the case may be. 46

(2) Subject to division (B) (3) of this section, a person
is presumed to have acted in self-defense or defense of another
when using defensive force that is intended or likely to cause
death or great bodily harm to another if the person against whom
the defensive force is used is in the process of unlawfully and
without privilege to do so entering, or has unlawfully and
without privilege to do so entered, the residence or vehicle
occupied by the person using the defensive force.

(3) The presumption set forth in division (B) (2) of this
section does not apply if either of the following is true:

(a) The person against whom the defensive force is used
has a right to be in, or is a lawful resident of, the residence
or vehicle.

(b) The person who uses the defensive force uses it while
in a residence or vehicle and the person is unlawfully, and
without privilege to be, in that residence or vehicle.

(4) The presumption set forth in division (B) (2) of this
section is a rebuttable presumption and may be rebutted by a
preponderance of the evidence, provided that the prosecution's
burden of proof remains proof beyond a reasonable doubt as
described in divisions (A) and (B) (1) of this section.

(C) As part of its charge to the jury in a criminal case,
the court shall read the definitions of "reasonable doubt" and
"proof beyond a reasonable doubt," contained in division (E) of
this section.

(D) As used in this section:

(1) An "affirmative defense" is either of the following:

(a) A defense expressly designated as affirmative;

(b) A defense involving an excuse or justification 75
peculiarly within the knowledge of the accused, on which the 76
accused can fairly be required to adduce supporting evidence. 77

(2) "Dwelling" means a building or conveyance of any kind 78
that has a roof over it and that is designed to be occupied by 79
people lodging in the building or conveyance at night, 80
regardless of whether the building or conveyance is temporary or 81
permanent or is mobile or immobile. As used in this division, a 82
building or conveyance includes, but is not limited to, an 83
attached porch, and a building or conveyance with a roof over it 84
includes, but is not limited to, a tent. 85

(3) "Residence" means a dwelling in which a person resides 86
either temporarily or permanently or is visiting as a guest. 87

(4) "Vehicle" means a conveyance of any kind, whether or 88
not motorized, that is designed to transport people or property. 89

(E) "Reasonable doubt" is present when the jurors, after 90
they have carefully considered and compared all the evidence, 91
cannot say they are firmly convinced of the truth of the charge. 92
It is a doubt based on reason and common sense. Reasonable doubt 93
is not mere possible doubt, because everything relating to human 94
affairs or depending on moral evidence is open to some possible 95
or imaginary doubt. "Proof beyond a reasonable doubt" is proof 96
of such character that an ordinary person would be willing to 97
rely and act upon it in the most important of the person's own 98
affairs. 99

Sec. 2901.09. (A) As used in this section, "residence" ~~has~~ 100
and "vehicle" have the same meaning-meanings as in section 101
2901.05 of the Revised Code. 102

(B) For purposes of any section of the Revised Code that 103

sets forth a criminal offense, a person who lawfully is in that 104
person's residence has no duty to retreat before using force in 105
self-defense, defense of another, or defense of that person's 106
residence ~~if~~, and a person who lawfully is an occupant of that 107
~~person~~ person's vehicle or who lawfully is an occupant in a 108
~~place in which~~ vehicle owned by an immediate family member of 109
the person lawfully has ~~a right~~ no duty to ~~be~~ retreat before 110
using force in self-defense or defense of another. 111

~~(C) A trier of fact shall not consider the possibility of~~ 112
~~retreat as a factor in determining whether or not a person who~~ 113
~~used force in self-defense, defense of another, or defense of~~ 114
~~that person's residence reasonably believed that the force was~~ 115
~~necessary to prevent injury, loss, or risk to life or safety.~~ 116

Section 2. That existing sections 2307.601, 2901.05, and 117
2901.09 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 118