

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1374

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE COOK.

2914H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 563.031, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to self-defense.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 563.031, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 563.031, to read as follows:

563.031. 1. A person may, subject to the provisions of subsection 2 of this section, use physical force upon another person when and to the extent he or she reasonably believes such force to be necessary to defend himself or herself or a third person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of unlawful force by such other person, unless:

(1) The actor was the initial aggressor; except that in such case his or her use of force is nevertheless justifiable provided:

(a) He or she has withdrawn from the encounter and effectively communicated such withdrawal to such other person but the latter persists in continuing the incident by the use or threatened use of unlawful force; or

(b) He or she is a law enforcement officer and as such is an aggressor pursuant to section 563.046; or

(c) The aggressor is justified under some other provision of this chapter or other provision of law;

(2) Under the circumstances as the actor reasonably believes them to be, the person whom he or she seeks to protect would not be justified in using such protective force;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 (3) The actor was attempting to commit, committing, or escaping after the  
18 commission of a forcible felony.

19 2. A person shall not use deadly force upon another person under the circumstances  
20 specified in subsection 1 of this section unless:

21 (1) He or she reasonably believes that such deadly force is necessary to protect  
22 himself, or herself or her unborn child, or another against death, serious physical injury, or  
23 any forcible felony;

24 (2) Such force is used against a person who unlawfully enters, remains after  
25 unlawfully entering, or attempts to unlawfully enter a dwelling, residence, **place of**  
26 **employment**, or vehicle lawfully occupied by such person; or

27 (3) Such force is used against a person who unlawfully enters, remains after  
28 unlawfully entering, or attempts to unlawfully enter private property that is owned or leased  
29 by an individual, or is occupied by an individual who has been given specific authority by the  
30 property owner to occupy the property, **or is a retail establishment or other place of**  
31 **business wherein an individual using such force has a right to be**, claiming a justification  
32 of using protective force under this section.

33 3. A person does not have a duty to retreat:

34 (1) From a dwelling, residence, **place of employment**, or vehicle where the person is  
35 not unlawfully entering or unlawfully remaining;

36 (2) From private property that is owned or leased by such individual; or

37 (3) If the person is in any other location such person has the right to be.

38 4. The justification afforded by this section extends to the use of physical restraint as  
39 protective force provided that the actor takes all reasonable measures to terminate the restraint  
40 as soon as it is reasonable to do so.

41 5. The defendant shall have the burden of injecting the issue of justification under this  
42 section. If a defendant asserts that his or her use of force is described under subdivision (2) of  
43 subsection 2 of this section, the burden shall then be on the state to prove beyond a reasonable  
44 doubt that the defendant did not reasonably believe that the use of such force was necessary to  
45 defend against what he or she reasonably believed was the use or imminent use of unlawful  
46 force.

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