

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 675

(Senator Hough, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

Humane Adoption of Companion Animals Used in Research Act of 2018

This bill requires specified research facilities located in the State, in which dogs or cats are used for scientific research purposes, to take reasonable steps, as specified, to provide for the adoption of a dog or cat no longer needed for scientific research purposes if the dog or cat is suitable for adoption.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill requires a research facility located in the State, in which dogs or cats are used for scientific research purposes, to take reasonable steps to provide for the adoption of a dog or cat that is determined by the research facility to be no longer needed for scientific research purposes and is determined by an attending veterinarian to be suitable for adoption by (1) establishing a private placement process to provide for the adoption of a dog or cat; (2) establishing a list of animal rescue organizations that are approved by the research facility and are willing to take a dog or cat from the research facility; and (3) offering the dog or cat to the organizations identified in the list if the research facility is unable to place the dog or cat through its private placement process.

A “research facility” includes a higher education research facility, a scientific research facility, a medical research facility, and a product testing facility. “Scientific research purposes” includes investigation, experimentation, instruction, and testing.

A research facility may enter into a collaborative agreement with an animal rescue organization to carry out the bill’s provisions.

Current Law: Under the federal Animal Welfare Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates commercial animal dealers, exhibitors (circuses, zoos, etc.), research facilities, and commercial businesses that transport animals. Research facilities that use or intend to use live animals in research, tests, or experiments must be registered with USDA and are inspected by APHIS at least once per year. A facility must also appoint an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) consisting of at least three members, including a veterinarian and one person who is not in any way affiliated with the facility. IACUC is responsible for, among other things, reviewing the facility’s program for humane care and use of animals and inspecting the research facility’s animal facilities.

Research facilities must submit an annual report to APHIS providing information that includes the types and numbers of animals used for teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery, by specified categories, and the types and numbers of animals being bred, conditioned, or held for use in teaching, testing, experiments, research, or surgery, but not yet used for such purposes.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 420 of 2017, a similar bill, received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 528, also a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 594 of 2016, a similar bill, passed with amendments in the House and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: HB 732 (Delegate Kramer, *et al.*) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture; Morgan State University; St. Mary’s College of Maryland; University of Maryland; Kent, Montgomery, and Washington counties; Department of Legislative Services

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