

Chapter 385

(House Bill 625)

AN ACT concerning

Human–Relevant Research Fund – Collection of Contributions – Responsible Entity

FOR the purpose of requiring certain research facilities to pay contributions for the Human–Relevant Research Fund to the Department of Agriculture, rather than the Maryland Department of Health; and generally relating to the Human–Relevant Research Fund.

BY repealing

Article – Health – General

Section 24–2301 through 24–2303 and the subtitle “Subtitle 23. Animal Testing and Research Contribution”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Agriculture

Section 2–2501 through 2–2503 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25. Human–Relevant Research Fund Contribution Collection”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 24–2301 through 24–2303 and the subtitle “Subtitle 23. Animal Testing and Research Contribution” of Article – Health – General of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Agriculture**SUBTITLE 25. HUMAN–RELEVANT RESEARCH FUND CONTRIBUTION COLLECTION.****2–2501.**

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE FORM 7023” MEANS THE FORM REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNDER 7 U.S.C. § 2143 AND 9 C.F.R. § 2.36.

2-2502.

(A) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2024, EACH RESEARCH FACILITY THAT IS LOCATED IN THE STATE AND IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE FORM 7023 SHALL PAY TO THE DEPARTMENT A CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF:

- (1) \$5,000 FOR UP TO 100 ANIMALS;**
- (2) \$10,000 FOR MORE THAN 100 BUT NOT MORE THAN 500 ANIMALS;**
- (3) \$55,000 FOR MORE THAN 500 BUT NOT MORE THAN 5,000 ANIMALS; AND**
- (4) \$75,000 FOR MORE THAN 5,000 ANIMALS.**

(B) THE AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION TO BE PAID UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE BASED ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS REPORTED IN COLUMN F ON THE MOST RECENTLY SUBMITTED ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE FORM 7023.

(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS PAID UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE HUMAN-RELEVANT RESEARCH FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 10-4D-02 OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE.

2-2503.

A RESEARCH FACILITY THAT FAILS TO PAY THE CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED UNDER § 2-2502(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000 PER DAY.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.