

SENATE BILL 422

M4
SB 537/25 – EEE

6lr1587
CF HB 665

By: **Senator Kramer**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and**
3 **Reporting Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and
5 cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; requiring certain
6 research facilities and testing facilities to submit to the Department of Agriculture
7 certain information regarding dogs and cats on or before a certain date each year;
8 requiring a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain
9 purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General
10 Assembly on or before a certain date each year; and generally relating to research
11 facilities and testing facilities that use animals in research, education, or testing.

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Agriculture
14 Section 15–101 and 15–103 through 15–106
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Agriculture
19 Section 15–101 to be under the amended title “Title 15. Research Facilities and
20 Testing Facilities That Use Animals”
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Agriculture**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Title 15. Research Facilities [that] **AND TESTING FACILITIES THAT Use [Dogs or Cats]
ANIMALS.**

15-101.

**(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
INDICATED.**

**(B) (1) “RESEARCH FACILITY” MEANS ANY FACILITY IN THE STATE THAT
USES LIVE ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, OR EXPERIMENTATION.**

**(2) “RESEARCH FACILITY” DOES NOT INCLUDE A PARTNERSHIP, A
CORPORATION, AN ASSOCIATION, AN INSTITUTION, AN ORGANIZATION, OR ANY
OTHER ENTITY IN THE STATE THAT PROVIDES ONLY BENEFICIAL SERVICES TO AN
ANIMAL, SUCH AS SPAYING AND NEUTERING.**

**(C) (1) “TESTING FACILITY” MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, ORGANIZATION, OR OTHER ENTITY IN
THE STATE THAT USES ANIMALS FOR THE TESTING OF:**

(I) CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES;

(II) INGREDIENTS;

(III) DRUGS;

(IV) VACCINES;

(V) PRODUCTS; OR

(VI) PRODUCT FORMULATIONS.

**(2) “TESTING FACILITY” INCLUDES A PARTNERSHIP, A
CORPORATION, AN ASSOCIATION, AN ORGANIZATION, OR ANY OTHER ENTITY IN THE
STATE THAT IS OWNED, LEASED, OR OPERATED BY A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY.**

**(3) “TESTING FACILITY” DOES NOT INCLUDE A PARTNERSHIP, A
CORPORATION, AN ASSOCIATION, AN INSTITUTION, AN ORGANIZATION, OR ANY
OTHER ENTITY IN THE STATE THAT PROVIDES ONLY BENEFICIAL SERVICES TO AN
ANIMAL, SUCH AS SPAYING AND NEUTERING.**

[15-101.] 15-102.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Animal rescue organization” includes:

(i) A nonprofit organization incorporated for the purpose of rescuing animals in need and finding permanent adoptive homes for the animals; and

(ii) A government–operated animal control unit that provides animals for adoption.

(3) [“Research facility” includes:

(i) A higher education research facility;

(ii) A scientific research facility;

(iii) A medical research facility; and

(iv) A product testing facility.

(4)] “Scientific research purposes” includes:

(i) Investigation;

(ii) Experimentation;

(iii) Instruction; and

(iv) Testing.

(b) This section applies to a dog or cat that, in the determination of an attending veterinarian, is suitable for adoption.

(c) A research facility **OR TESTING FACILITY** located in the State in which dogs or cats are used for scientific research purposes shall take reasonable steps to provide for the adoption of a dog or cat that, in the determination of the research facility **OR TESTING FACILITY**, is no longer needed for scientific research purposes 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 **OR TESTING FACILITY** and are willing to take a dog or cat from the research facility **OR TESTING FACILITY**; and

(3) Offering the dog or cat to the animal rescue organizations identified in the list established under item (2) of this subsection if the research facility **OR TESTING FACILITY** is unable to place the dog or cat through its private placement process.

(d) A research facility **OR TESTING FACILITY** may enter into a collaborative agreement with an animal rescue organization for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

15-103.

(A) **ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31 EACH YEAR, EACH RESEARCH FACILITY AND TESTING FACILITY THAT USES LIVE ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, OR TESTING SHALL SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD:**

(1) **THE NUMBER OF DOGS OR CATS OWNED AND USED BY THE RESEARCH FACILITY OR TESTING FACILITY; AND**

(2) **THE NUMBER OF DOGS OR CATS RELEASED TO ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS UNDER § 15-102 OF THIS TITLE AND THE NAMES OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH THE DOGS OR CATS WERE RELEASED.**

(B) **THE SECRETARY SHALL:**

(1) **PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT AGGREGATING THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

(2) **POST THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.**

15-104.

(A) **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, A SCHOOL OR AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT USES ANIMALS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AS A RESEARCH FACILITY OR TESTING FACILITY SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE RESULTS OF ANY INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL OR THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PERFORMED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY.**

(B) **THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE ANY VIOLATIONS FOUND DURING AN INSPECTION.**

15-105.

1 **A RESEARCH FACILITY OR TESTING FACILITY THAT VIOLATES THIS TITLE IS**
2 **SUBJECT TO:**

3 **(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000; AND**

4 **(2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE NOT**
5 **EXCEEDING \$5,000.**

6 **15–106.**

7 **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO:**

8 **(1) CARRY OUT THIS TITLE; AND**

9 **(2) ENSURE THE HUMANE TREATMENT AND CARE OF DOGS AND CATS**
10 **THAT ARE USED FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, OR TESTING CONSISTENT WITH THE**
11 **FEDERAL ANIMAL WELFARE ACT AND CORRESPONDING REGULATIONS.**

12 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
13 **October 1, 2026.**