

# SENATE BILL 422

M4  
SB 537/25 – EEE

6lr1587  
CF HB 665

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By: Senator Kramer

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## 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**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **15–101.**

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

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

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

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

15 (I) CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES;

16 (II) INGREDIENTS;

17 (III) DRUGS;

18 (IV) VACCINES;

19 (V) PRODUCTS; OR

20 (VI) PRODUCT FORMULATIONS.

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

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

28 [15–101.] **15–102.**

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

(2) "Animal rescue organization" includes:

(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.

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

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

22 (1) Establishing a private placement process to provide for the adoption of  
23 a dog or cat;

24 (2) Establishing a list of animal rescue organizations that are approved by  
25 the research facility **OR TESTING FACILITY** and are willing to take a dog or cat from the  
26 research facility **OR TESTING FACILITY**; and

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

7 15-103.

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

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

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

21 15-104.

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

31 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.**