



Formerly called the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International

February 17, 2026

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 422- Beagle Bill 2.0
FAVORABLE

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States, and our Maryland supporters urge a favorable report on SB 422, *Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements* (Beagle Bill 2.0). This important legislation creates a requirement that animal research and testing facilities in the state annually report to the Secretary of Agriculture how many dogs and cats they use and how many are provided the chance of adoption after they are no longer needed for experiments. This legislation also creates a requirement for institutions of higher education to annually report the results of their federal inspections to the Maryland General Assembly.

The original Beagle Bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan momentum: **30 of 47 Senators and 98 of 147 Delegates cosponsored the legislation**, including several legislators who now serve on this committee. That level of support reflects a clear, durable consensus that dogs and cats used in research deserve transparency and meaningful opportunities for adoption. SB 422 simply strengthens that intent.¹ Research and testing facilities are required by law to offer dogs and cats that are no longer needed for research and testing purposes to animal rescue organizations or facilitate the adoption of these animals via a private, internal adoption program. While current law provides dogs and cats with this second chance to live as beloved pets, it does not require transparency of whether research and testing facilities are compliant. This means that facilities can state that they are adopting out eligible animals but are not currently responsible for validating those claims. According to the most recent data available from the United States Department of Agriculture, approximately ninety dogs and three hundred cats were used in Maryland research and testing facilities in 2024 that would be required to comply with this legislation. However, the percentage of those animals that were adopted out is unknown.

SB 422 would help ensure that the maximum number of dogs and cats suitable for adoption are being given that chance by creating accountability through reporting basic information. Requiring research and testing facilities to be accountable for reporting how many adoptions they facilitate will incentivize them to adopt out as many eligible animals as possible, which is what the current law intends. If facilities are already complying with current law, then it should

¹ Md. Code Ann., Agriculture § 15-101 (2018).

be extremely easy for them to record and report this basic data once per year. Dogs and cats used for research and testing in our state deserve this minimal extra effort.

Maryland and sixteen other states have decided that dogs and cats in laboratories deserve an opportunity to live the remainder of their lives in loving homes. Now we are calling on Maryland legislators to ensure this law has been effective.

This legislation would also increase accountability for our institutions of higher education by requiring them to report to the Maryland General Assembly the results of their federal inspections as required under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).² These inspections are performed to ensure that facilities using animals in experiments comply with the minimum standards of the federal AWA and corresponding regulations. SB 422 will increase accountability for our taxpayer-funded universities and colleges' use of animals in experiments on the state level.

At the time of written testimony being due, no fiscal note was available for 2026 SB422. The fiscal note for a similar bill considered in the 2025 session (SB 537) reflected that the bill could be "implemented with existing resources" and "is not expected to significantly affect local government finances."

With these common sense, straightforward reporting requirements, passage of SB 422 will help increase transparency and accountability for research and testing facilities that use animals in experiments in our state. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Humane World for Animals urges a favorable report on SB 422.

Thank you,

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² Animal Welfare Act, 21 U.S.C. §2146

Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States.
For questions, please contact Maryland State Director Stacey Volodin at svolodin@humaneworld.org

Appendix

98 out of 141 Maryland Delegates Sponsored + Cosponsored.

Title	Humane Adoption of Companion Animals Used in Research Act of 2018
Sponsored by	Delegates Kramer , Adams , Afzali , Ali , Anderson , Anderton , Angel , Arentz , Atterbeary , Aumann , Barkley , B. Barnes , D. Barnes , Barve , Beidle , Branch , Bromwell , Brooks , Carey , Carozza , Carr , Chang , Ciliberti , Clippinger , Cullison , Davis , Dumais , Ebersole , Fennell , Fisher , Folden , Fraser-Hidalgo , Frick , Frush , Ghrist , Gilchrist , Glass , Glenn , Gutierrez , Hayes , Haynes , Hill , Hixson , S. Howard , Impallaria , Jackson , Jacobs , Jalisi , Jameson , Kaiser , Kelly , Kipke , Knotts , Krimm , J. Lewis , Lisanti , Long , Luedtke , Mautz , McComas , McConkey , McCray , McMillan , Metzgar , Miele , A. Miller , Moon , Morales , Morhaim , Mosby , Parrott , Patterson , Pena-Melnyk , Platt , Proctor , Queen , Robinson , Rose , Rosenberg , Saab , Sample-Hughes , Sanchez , Simonaire , Stein , Tarlau , Turner , Valderrama , Valentino-Smith , Vallario , Vogt , Waldstreicher , Walker , A. Washington , M. Washington , West , Wilkins , Wilson , and K. Young

30 out of 47 Maryland State Senators Sponsored + Cosponsored.

Title	Humane Adoption of Companion Animals Used in Research Act of 2018
Sponsored by	Senators Hough , Astle , Bates , Benson , Brochin , Cassilly , Eckardt , Feldman , Guzzone , Hershey , Jennings , Kelley , King , Klausmeier , Lee , Madaleno , Manno , Mathias , Middleton , Muse , Norman , Peters , Ramirez , Ready , Robinson , Rosapepe , Salling , Simonaire , Smith , and Young
Status	Approved by the Governor - Chapter 236