



Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA)

Established in 1886, MDVMA is a volunteer, non-profit organization comprised primarily of licensed Maryland Veterinarians.

SB0422 - Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Adoption and Reporting Requirements

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

February 13, 2026

MDVMA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, we offer the following Favorable with Amendments testimony on SB0422. We support the core mission of SB0422, which aims to formalize and expand the adoption process for dogs and cats used in research and testing facilities. Our profession is deeply committed to the oath we have sworn to minimize animal suffering and promote public health, and as veterinarians, we hold in high regard the contributions these animals make to the advancement of society. We believe that research institutions already work diligently to make animals available for adoption whenever practicable, and we endorse a legislative framework that supports these well-intentioned efforts to ensure as many animals as possible find loving, permanent homes.

To ensure this legislation achieves its goals while maintaining a secure environment for all involved, we suggest a few minor refinements to the reporting requirements in Section 15-103. We are concerned that making specific private research or testing facility names public via the Secretary's report could lead to protestors targeting these facilities, which creates an unsafe environment for those performing vital scientific work. We request the annual report prepared by the Secretary and posted on the Department's website be required to anonymize any identifying information of the research or testing facilities. Our primary concern is the welfare of employees at these institutions. Additionally, to prevent a 'back channel' for obtaining this sensitive data, we request that identifying information of these institutions be exempt from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. If the goal is transparency regarding the number of animals used and adopted, that can be achieved through aggregated, anonymous data without putting specific individuals or facilities at risk. Finally, we would request that the reporting requirement be done by "fiscal year", rather than January 31 annually, in order to align with already required USDA/APHIS reporting.

As for enforcement, this identifying information would of course remain available to the Department. They may impose the fine associated with non-compliance.

With these small adjustments, we can ensure that SB0422 achieves its noble purpose of finding permanent homes for as many animals as possible while maintaining the necessary security and privacy of the institutions. We want this bill to succeed, and we believe these small adjustments will provide the necessary safeguards to allow this important work for the benefit of our society to continue without interruption.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Legislative Committee Chair & Board Member
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association

MARYLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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