



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

February 18, 2026

**Environment and Transportation Committee
HB 665- Beagle Bill 2.0
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States, and our Maryland members and supporters urging a favorable report of HB 665, *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 fiscal note for HB 665 reflected that it was “expected to be implemented with existing resources” and that it is “not expected to significantly affect local government finances.”

HB 665 would be a simple update to the original Beagle Bill, which unanimously passed the legislature in 2018 and is now current law.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 90 dogs and 300 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.

HB 665 would help ensure that the maximum number of dogs and cats suitable for adoption are being given that chance by creating accountability through reporting very 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 be very 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.

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

This commonsense legislation is consistent with laws passed in other states. Maryland and 16 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. I

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. HB 665 will increase accountability for our taxpayer-funded universities and colleges' use of animals in experiments on the state level.

With these common sense, straightforward reporting requirements, passage of HB 665 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 HB 665.

Please reach out to Stacey Volodin, (svolodin@humaneworld.org) with any questions or additional information.

Thank you,

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² Animal Welfare Act, 21 U.S.C. §2146