



Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA)

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

SB0423 - Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals - Prohibitions and Adoption Requirements (Animal Research Modernization and Best Practices Act of 2026)

Committee: Environment and Transportation

March 30, 2026

MDVMA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association and its members we wish to thank the sponsors of SB423 for and offer a favorable report with one small, requested amendment. We deeply appreciate the opportunity to have our voices heard and to contribute to the shaping of this legislation. We are also thankful to the Senate for their thoughtful consideration and adoption of many of the amendments we have previously submitted.

Specifically, we respectfully request that on page 8 lines 23 and 24, the term “species of animals” be replaced with “animals as defined by the Animal Welfare Act” in accordance with the [Code of Federal Regulations](#), Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, Part 1, Section 1.1. This amendment would better align the bill with established federal standards, ensuring consistency and clarity.

We fully understand the intent behind this legislation, particularly its focus on the welfare of research animals and the goal of ensuring successful adoptions when appropriate. We strongly support initiatives that promote the respectful and dignified treatment of research animals, especially as they transition into new homes after their service to society.

We're concerned that requiring the reporting of each “species of animals” in a broad context may create an overwhelming and burdensome reporting requirement for both the collecting agencies and the laboratories. The breadth of this language would likely result in the collection of a large volume of information that is not relevant to the core objectives of this legislation—ensuring proper care and successful adoption outcomes for research animals. By aligning with the Animal Welfare Act, we can ensure that reporting practices are consistent with accepted federal standards, which would help streamline the process while maintaining the spirit of the legislation.

We are grateful for the opportunity to engage in this important discussion and for the committee's consideration of our request. We urge a favorable report with one amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Weeman DVM MS
Legislative Committee Chair & Board Member
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association

MARYLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION