

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 594 (Delegate Kramer, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Humane Adoption of Companion Animals Used in Research Act of 2016

This bill prohibits a “research facility” located in the State from using a dog or cat for “scientific research purposes” for more than two years. The bill also requires a research facility in which dogs or cats are used for scientific research purposes to take reasonable steps to provide for the adoption of a dog or cat that is no longer needed by (1) establishing an animal rescue database identifying animal rescue organizations that are willing to take a dog or cat from the research facility and (2) offering the dog or cat to the organizations identified in the database.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A “research facility” includes a higher education research facility, a scientific research facility, a medical research facility, and a product testing facility. “Scientific research purposes” includes investigation, experimentation, instruction, and testing.

A research facility may enter into a collaborative agreement with an animal rescue organization to carry out the bill’s provisions.

Current Law: Under the federal Animal Welfare Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates commercial animal dealers, exhibitors (circuses, zoos, etc.), research facilities, and commercial businesses that transport animals. Research facilities that use or intend to use live animals in research, tests, or experiments must be licensed and registered with USDA and are inspected by APHIS at least once per year. A facility must also appoint an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), consisting of at least three members, including a veterinarian and one person who is not in any way affiliated with the facility. IACUC is responsible for reviewing the facility's program for humane care and use of animals and inspecting the research facility's animal facilities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Harford and Montgomery counties, University of Maryland Medical System, University System of Maryland, Maryland Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

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md/lgc

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