

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 580

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources
4 on January 31, 2024)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Simonds)

6 A BILL to direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene the Task Force on
7 Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities; report.

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

9 1. § 1. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in collaboration with the State Council of
10 Higher Education for Virginia (the Task Force), shall convene the Task Force on Transparency in Publicly
11 Funded Animal Testing Facilities for the purpose of identifying potential deficiencies in publicly funded
12 animal testing facilities, as that term is defined in § 3.2-6593.2 of the Code of Virginia, in the
13 Commonwealth and recommending methods and context for making certain information about such
14 animal testing facilities publicly available, including information pertaining to instances of noncompliance
15 with federal animal welfare regulations, guidelines, or policies, as well as the care, use, and approximate
16 numbers of animals used for research, education, testing, or other experimental, scientific, or medical
17 purposes by each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth, including animals not
18 covered by the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.).

19 The Task Force shall consist of legislators and stakeholders, including (i) representatives from one
20 institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with Carnegie research classification R1, one
21 institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with Carnegie research classification R2, and one
22 institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with Carnegie research classification R3; (ii)
23 representatives from three unaffiliated animal protection or animal welfare watchdog groups in the
24 Commonwealth; (iii) an individual who serves as a member of an institutional animal care and use
25 committee at one of the Commonwealth's publicly funded animal testing facilities; (iv) a Virginia-licensed
26 American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine-certified veterinarian functioning in the role of

27 attending veterinarian at one of the Commonwealth's publicly funded animal testing facilities; (v) a
28 representative of the Virginia Press Association; (vi) a representative of the Virginia Coalition for Open
29 Government; (vii) a member of the Virginia Freedom of Information Council; and (viii) two members of
30 the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and two members of the House of Delegates
31 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

32 The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations on how to improve transparency at
33 publicly funded animal testing facilities in the Commonwealth to the House Committees on Agriculture,
34 Chesapeake and Natural Resources, Finance, and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on
35 Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and Finance and Appropriations no later than November
36 1, 2024. Such report shall be submitted as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division
37 of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be
38 posted on the General Assembly's website.

39

#