

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1290

To promote competition and help consumers save money by giving them the freedom to choose where they buy prescription pet medications, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2019

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To promote competition and help consumers save money by giving them the freedom to choose where they buy prescription pet medications, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fairness to Pet Own-
5 ers Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY.**

7 This Act shall only apply to medication for a domes-
8 ticated household animal that the Federal Government
9 bars consumers from purchasing without a prescription.

1 **SEC. 3. PET OWNER RIGHTS TO COPIES OF VETERINARY**
2 **PRESCRIPTIONS.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade
5 Commission shall promulgate rules in accordance with sec-
6 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code, that include the
7 following requirements with regard to a veterinary pre-
8 scription:

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—A requirement that the pre-
10 scriber of an animal drug shall—

11 (A) whether or not requested by the pet
12 owner, provide to the pet owner, before offering
13 to fill or dispensing, a veterinary prescription, a
14 copy of the veterinary prescription; and

15 (B) provide a copy of the prescription, con-
16 sistent with applicable State law, if requested
17 by a pharmacy or any other person designated
18 to act on behalf of the pet owner.

19 (2) PURCHASE, PAYMENT, AND WAIVER.—A re-
20 quirement that the prescriber of an animal drug—

21 (A) may not—

22 (i) require purchase of the animal
23 drug for which the veterinary prescription
24 was written from the prescriber or from
25 another person as a condition of providing
26 a copy of the veterinary prescription or

1 verifying such prescription under para-
2 graph (1);

3 (ii) require payment in addition to, or
4 as part of, the fee for an examination and
5 evaluation as a condition of providing a
6 copy of the veterinary prescription or
7 verifying such prescription under para-
8 graph (1); or

9 (iii) require the pet owner to sign a
10 waiver or disclaim liability, or deliver to
11 the pet owner a notice waiving or dis-
12 claiming liability of the prescriber for the
13 accuracy of the veterinary prescription, as
14 a condition of providing a copy of such
15 prescription or verifying such prescription
16 under paragraph (1); and

17 (B) may require payment of fees for an ex-
18 amination and evaluation before providing a
19 veterinary prescription, but only if the pre-
20 scriber requires immediate payment in the case
21 of an examination that reveals no requirement
22 for an animal drug.

23 (b) ELECTRONIC OPTIONS.—The Federal Trade
24 Commission shall ensure that the requirements promul-
25 gated under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection

1 (a)(1) allow for the provision of copies of prescriptions by
2 electronic or other means.

3 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.**

4 (a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE.—A
5 violation of a rule prescribed pursuant to section 3 of this
6 Act shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an
7 unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section
8 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
9 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

10 (b) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commis-
12 sion shall enforce this Act in the same manner, by
13 the same means, and with the same jurisdiction as
14 though all applicable terms and provisions of the
15 Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et
16 seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this
17 Act.

18 (2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person
19 who violates a rule prescribed pursuant to section 3
20 of this Act shall be subject to the penalties and enti-
21 tled to the privileges and immunities provided in the
22 Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et
23 seq.).

24 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) ANIMAL DRUG.—The term “animal drug”
2 means a drug intended to be administered to an ani-
3 mal that may not be dispensed without a prescrip-
4 tion.

5 (2) DOMESTICATED HOUSEHOLD ANIMAL.—The
6 term “domesticated household animal” means a
7 companion animal permitted under applicable State
8 and local law to be kept in a home for noncommer-
9 cial purposes.

10 (3) PET OWNER.—The term “pet owner”
11 means the legal owner of a domesticated household
12 animal or a person designated by such owner to
13 present such animal to the prescriber for care.

14 (4) PRESCRIBER.—The term “prescriber”
15 means a health care practitioner who is licensed to
16 practice veterinary medicine or other person per-
17 mitted under State law to issue prescriptions for
18 animal drugs.

19 (5) VETERINARY PRESCRIPTION.—The term
20 “veterinary prescription”—

21 (A) means a written, oral, or electronic
22 order from a prescriber authorizing the dis-
23 pensing of an animal drug for use by a domes-
24 ticated household animal and normally adminis-

1 tered to the animal by its owner, issued in ac-
2 cordance with State and Federal law; and

3 (B) does not include an animal drug ad-
4 ministered by the veterinarian in the course of
5 providing acute care.

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