

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9072

To amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that healthy research common companion animals are adopted into suitable homes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Miss RICE of New York (for herself, Mr. KATKO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DEAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CORREA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CROW, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. LIEU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that healthy research common companion animals are adopted into suitable homes.

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 “Humane Retirement
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADOPTION POLICY FOR PUB-**
2 **LIC HEALTH SERVICE AGENCIES WITH RE-**
3 **SPECT TO RETIRED COMMON COMPANION**
4 **ANIMALS.**

5 Section 495 of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 289d) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(f)(1) Beginning one year after the date of the en-
9 actment of this subsection, guidelines of the Secretary
10 under subsection (a)(3) shall require animal care commit-
11 tees described in such subsection that conduct biomedical
12 and behavioral research at Public Health Service funded
13 Federal agencies to, after the completion of any testing
14 or research involving a common companion animal and
15 prior to euthanizing such common companion animal,
16 make a reasonable effort to offer such common companion
17 animal for adoption, if suitable, in accordance with the
18 following:

19 “(A) Such an animal care committee shall,
20 after the completion of such testing or research in-
21 volving a common companion animal and prior to
22 euthanizing such common companion animal, assess
23 the health and temperament of the common com-
24 panion animal and determine whether it is suitable
25 for adoption.

1 “(B) If found to be suitable for adoption, such
2 an animal care committee shall make reasonable ef-
3 forts to offer for adoption the common companion
4 animal to an adopting party.

5 “(C) An animal care committee shall ensure
6 that any adopting party described in any of clauses
7 (ii) through (vi) of paragraph (6)(A) provides a writ-
8 ten assurance that the common companion animal
9 will be placed in a home and not with a breeder, ex-
10 hibitor, or research facility.

11 “(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed
12 as—

13 “(A) creating a duty upon an adopting party to
14 accept a common companion animal offered by an
15 animal care committee described in paragraph (1);
16 or

17 “(B) prohibiting such committee from
18 euthanizing a common companion animal if the re-
19 quirements of this subsection are otherwise met.

20 “(3) An animal care committee described in para-
21 graph (1) and any officer, director, employee, or agent of
22 such committee are immune from civil liability for any act
23 or omission relating to the adoption of a common com-
24 panion animal pursuant to this subsection.

1 “(4) Beginning not later than 1 year after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter,
3 an animal care committee described in paragraph (1) shall
4 submit to the Secretary a report on adoptions that oc-
5 curred as a result of the requirement specified in such
6 paragraph. Each such report shall include the following:

7 “(A) The number and species of common com-
8 panion animals eligible for adoption at the research
9 entity for which the animal care committee was es-
10 tablished.

11 “(B) The number of common companion ani-
12 mals adopted.

13 “(C) The types of adopting parties that adopted
14 such animals, disaggregated according to the cat-
15 egories of adopting parties listed in paragraph
16 (6)(A).

17 “(5) An animal care committee described in para-
18 graph (1), may, in offering a common companion animal
19 for adoption pursuant to paragraph (1), charge the adopt-
20 ing party a fee for that adoption (including for any serv-
21 ices necessary to prepare the common companion animal
22 for that adoption).

23 “(6) For purposes of this subsection:

24 “(A) The term ‘adopting party’ means—

1 “(i) an individual adopting a common com-
2 panion animal through private placement;

3 “(ii) a bona fide animal rescue organization;

4 “(iii) a bona fide animal shelter organization;

5 “(iv) a bona fide society for the prevention of
6 cruelty to animals;

7 “(v) a bona fide humane society; or

8 “(vi) a bona fide animal protective association
9 that operates physical animal sheltering facilities
10 and offers households pets to the public for adoption
11 by way of an established adoption program.

12 “(B) The term ‘common companion animal’ means
13 a dog, cat, rabbit, or guinea pig.”.

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