

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5020

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will award grants to entities for purposes of supporting the capability of such entities to provide care to animals in their care, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 22, 2025

Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary will award grants to entities for purposes of supporting the capability of such entities to provide care to animals in their care, 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 “Supporting Our Shel-
5 ters Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO SUPPORT ANIMAL SHELTERS.**

2 Section 28 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
3 2158) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting
4 the following:

5 “(d) GRANTS TO SUPPORT ANIMAL SHELTERS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
7 lish a program under which the Secretary will award
8 grants to entities described in subsection (a)(2) for
9 purposes of supporting the capability of such entities
10 to provide care to animals in their care, including
11 feeding, sheltering, veterinary care, recreational ac-
12 tivities, and the hiring, training, and retention of
13 staff to provide such care.

14 “(2) TERM.—The term of a grant under this
15 subsection shall not exceed 3 years. Such term is re-
16 newable if the grantee submits a report to the Sec-
17 retary under paragraph (4) prior to the expiration of
18 the respective term.

19 “(3) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Beginning not
20 later than 180 days after the date on which the first
21 grant is awarded under this subsection and each
22 year thereafter, each recipient of a grant under this
23 subsection shall submit to the Secretary a detailed
24 accounting of—

1 “(A) the number of each species taken into
2 the shelter and the outcome for each species
3 during the period covered by the report; and

4 “(B) how the recipient of the grant used
5 grant funds during the period covered by the
6 report.

7 “(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Beginning not
8 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
9 of this subsection and each year thereafter, the Sec-
10 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
11 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
12 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
13 ate a report on the program under paragraph (1),
14 including an accounting of how the funds made
15 available to carry out this subsection were used by
16 recipients of grants under this subsection to improve
17 animal care.

18 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate
19 regulations to carry out this section. Not later than 180
20 days after the date of the enactment of subsection (d),
21 the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out
22 such subsection.”.

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