

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5244

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the adoption or non-laboratory placement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the adoption or non-laboratory placement of certain animals used in Federal research, 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 “Animal Freedom from
5 Testing, Experiments, and Research Act of 2021” or the
6 “AFTER Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF ANIMALS USED IN FEDERAL RE-**
2 **SEARCH.**

3 Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
4 2144) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 14. STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

6 “(a) **LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES AND EXHIBI-**
7 **TORS.**—Any department, agency, or instrumentality of the
8 United States having laboratory animal facilities or exhib-
9 iting animals shall comply with the standards and other
10 requirements promulgated by the Secretary under sections
11 13(a), (f), (g), and (h).

12 “(b) **ADOPTION AND NON-LABORATORY PLACE-**
13 **MENT.**—Any department, agency, or instrumentality of
14 the United States operating as a Federal research facility
15 shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this subsection, promulgate standards and other
17 requirements that, in the determination of the depart-
18 ment, agency, or instrumentality, facilitates the adoption
19 or non-laboratory placement of any animal of the facility
20 no longer needed for research and determined to be suit-
21 able for release to an animal rescue organization, animal
22 sanctuary, animal shelter, or individual.

23 “(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

24 “(1) **ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION.**—The
25 term ‘animal rescue organization’ means an organi-
26 zation—

1 “(A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the
2 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt
3 from taxation under section 501(a) of such
4 Code; and

5 “(B) with the purpose of rescuing animals
6 that are unwanted, abandoned, or otherwise in
7 need of placement and finding permanent adop-
8 tive homes for such animals.

9 “(2) ANIMAL SANCTUARY.—The term ‘animal
10 sanctuary’ means an organization described in sec-
11 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
12 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of
13 such Code that—

14 “(A) is registered with the Secretary;

15 “(B) operates a place of refuge—

16 “(i) where an unwanted, displaced, or
17 retired animal is provided care for the life-
18 time of such animal; and

19 “(ii) where an unescorted public visi-
20 tation of such an animal is not permitted;

21 “(C) does not engage in commercial trade
22 of such an animal;

23 “(D) does not breed such an animal;

24 “(E) does not permit direct contact be-
25 tween the public and such an animal;

1 “(F) does not allow the use of such an ani-
2 mal for performance or exhibition purposes; and

3 “(G) does not conduct research that pains
4 or distresses such an animal.

5 “(3) ANIMAL SHELTER.—The term ‘animal
6 shelter’ means a facility that accepts or seizes ani-
7 mals to care for such animals, place such animals in
8 a permanent adoptive home, or carry out law en-
9 forcement purposes.”.

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