

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0413.01 Josh Schultz x5486

SENATE BILL 25-085

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jaquez Lewis and Kipp,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rutinel and Paschal,

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF ANIMALS THAT ARE TEST SUBJECTS OF**
102 **HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires a facility that uses animals for health-related research (health-related research facility) to offer a dog or cat to an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue for the purpose of adoption before euthanizing the animal. If the health-related research facility has an internal adoption program, the facility may first offer the dog or cat for adoption through the internal adoption program before offering the dog

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

or cat to an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue.

A health-related research facility must submit an annual report to the department of public health and environment that includes the following information for the previous year:

- The total number of dogs and cats that are used for health-related research conducted at the health-related research facility;
- The total number of dogs and cats that the health-related research facility transferred to an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue for the purpose of adoption;
- The total number of dogs and cats that the health-related research facility adopted out through an internal adoption program; and
- The name and address of each animal shelter or pet animal rescue to which the health-related research facility transferred a dog or cat for the purpose of adoption.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 5.7 to title
3 25 as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 5.7**

5 **Animals in Health-related Research Facilities**

6 **25-5.7-101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 5.7, UNLESS
7 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8 (1) "ANIMAL" MEANS A LIVE VERTEBRATE, NONHUMAN ANIMAL.

9 (2) "ANIMAL SHELTER" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
10 35-80-102 (1).

11 (3) "CAT" MEANS A SMALL, DOMESTICATED, CARNIVOROUS
12 MAMMAL THAT IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY FELIDAE, ORDER CARNIVORA.

13 (4) "CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE" MEANS ANY ORGANIC OR INORGANIC
14 SUBSTANCE, INCLUDING:

15 (a) A DRUG, AS DEFINED IN 21 U.S.C. SEC. 321 (g)(1);

16 (b) A PESTICIDE, AS DEFINED IN 7 U.S.C. SEC. 136 (u);

1 (c) A CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE, AS DEFINED IN 15 U.S.C. SEC. 2602
2 (2); AND

3 (d) A FOOD ADDITIVE, AS DEFINED IN 21 U.S.C. SEC. 321 (s).

4 (5) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
5 AND ENVIRONMENT.

6 (6) "DOG" MEANS ANY MEMBER OF THE SPECIES CANIS FAMILIARIS.

7 (7) "HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH" MEANS RESEARCH:

8 (a) RELATED TO THE CAUSES, PROGRESSION, DIAGNOSIS,
9 TREATMENT, CONTROL, OR PREVENTION OF PHYSICAL OR MENTAL
10 DISEASES AND IMPAIRMENTS OR CHRONIC CONDITIONS OF HUMANS OR
11 ANIMALS;

12 (b) RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOMEDICAL PRODUCTS OR
13 DEVICES, AS DEFINED IN 21 U.S.C. SEC. 321 (h); OR

14 (c) TO TEST THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES,
15 INGREDIENTS, MEDICAL DEVICES, VACCINES, PRODUCTS, OR PRODUCT
16 FORMULATIONS.

17 (8)(a) "HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY" MEANS AN ENTITY
18 THAT USES ANIMALS FOR HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH.

19 (b) "HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE
20 AN ENTITY THAT ONLY PROVIDES A BENEFICIAL SERVICE TO AN ANIMAL,
21 SUCH AS SPAYING OR NEUTERING.

22 (9) "PET ANIMAL RESCUE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
23 SECTION 35-80-102 (11.2).

24 **25-5.7-102. Health-related research - dogs and cats - adoption**
25 **- reporting.** (1) (a) BEFORE EUTHANIZING A DOG OR CAT, A
26 HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY SHALL OFFER THE DOG OR CAT TO
27 AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR A PET ANIMAL RESCUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF

1 ADOPTION. IF THE HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY HAS AN
2 INTERNAL ADOPTION PROGRAM, THE FACILITY MAY FIRST OFFER THE DOG
3 OR CAT FOR ADOPTION THROUGH THE INTERNAL ADOPTION PROGRAM
4 BEFORE OFFERING THE DOG OR CAT TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR A PET
5 ANIMAL RESCUE.

6 (b) SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY IF A
7 HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY EUTHANIZES A DOG OR CAT FOR
8 HEALTH OR SAFETY REASONS.

9 (2) A HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY MAY ENTER INTO A
10 COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT WITH AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR A PET ANIMAL
11 RESCUE TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

12 (3) A HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY THAT ACTS IN GOOD
13 FAITH TO TRANSFER A DOG OR CAT TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR A PET
14 ANIMAL RESCUE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IS
15 IMMUNE FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ACTS OR CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO
16 OR RESULTING FROM THE TRANSFER OF THE DOG OR CAT.

17 (4) (a) BY JANUARY 31, 2026, AND BY JANUARY 31 EACH YEAR
18 THEREAFTER, A HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY SHALL SUBMIT TO
19 THE DEPARTMENT, ON A FORM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT, A REPORT
20 THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE PREVIOUS
21 CALENDAR YEAR:

22 (I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS THAT ARE USED FOR
23 HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH CONDUCTED AT THE HEALTH-RELATED
24 RESEARCH FACILITY;

25 (II) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS THAT THE
26 HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY:

27 (A) TRANSFERRED TO AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR A PET ANIMAL

1 RESCUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION; AND

2 (B) ADOPTED OUT THROUGH AN INTERNAL ADOPTION PROGRAM;

3 AND

4 (III) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH ANIMAL SHELTER OR PET
5 ANIMAL RESCUE TO WHICH THE HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY
6 TRANSFERRED A DOG OR CAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTION.

7 (b) A HEALTH-RELATED RESEARCH FACILITY WITH AN INTERNAL
8 ADOPTION PROGRAM SHALL NOT REPORT ANY PERSONAL IDENTIFYING
9 INFORMATION ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL INTERNAL ADOPTER.

10 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
13 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
14 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
15 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
16 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
17 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.