

SB 638 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Steiner Hayward

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/20/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Bentz, Fagan, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires research facilities to offer dogs and cats used in laboratory research for adoption through private adoption process or animal shelter. Allows exceptions for health, safety, and research needs. Provides facility civil immunity for transfers of dogs and cats to animal shelters done in good faith. Requires annual reporting by non-public research facilities to Secretary of State. Provides definitions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Treatment of laboratory animals
- Statistics on laboratory dog and cat adoptions
- Similar legislation in other states
- Concerns about adoptability of animals other than dogs and cats

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, several research facilities use animals in their research, including Oregon Health and Science University, Oregon State University, and the University of Oregon. According to 2017 data from the United States Department of Agriculture, there are approximately 8,000 mammals used for scientific research in Oregon, including several dozen dogs and cats.

Senate Bill 638 A requires that dogs and cats used in laboratory research be offered for adoption through a private process or animal shelter unless health and safety concerns or research needs prevent the facility from doing so. The measure also provides research facilities immunity from civil liability that results from the good faith transfer of laboratory dogs and cats to animal shelters. Finally, SB 638 A requires non-public research facilities to make annual reports to the Secretary of State on the number of dogs and cats used in research or released to shelters and provides definitions for animal shelter, laboratory research, and research facility.