

SB 181 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/2, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture to study rules related to animals and provide a report to the interim committee related to natural resources by September 15, 2026.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Other states that have enacted similar prohibitions
- No pain and distress Category D or E research is currently publicly funded in Oregon
- OHSU studies on dogs are funded by a private foundation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment prohibits research facilities from using public funds to directly fund medically unnecessary laboratory research on dogs or cats, when the research is classified under United States Department of Agriculture as pain and distress Category D or E. The amendment defines terms and excludes veterinary education and clinical veterinary research.

BACKGROUND:

The Animal Welfare Act, [7 U.S.C. Sect. 2131 to Sect. 2160](#), was originally signed into law in 1966 and has been amended many times since. 7 U.S.C. Sect. 2143 directed the USDA Secretary to promulgate standards governing humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of animals by dealers, research facilities and exhibitors, and requires the standards to ensure minimization of animal pain and distress. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) [rules](#) require research facilities to report annually on the animals used for research, and to categorize the research procedures in a B to E pain and distress scale. The USDA issued an [Animal Care Tech Note](#) in 2023 with guidance on determining pain and distress scales. Category D includes pain and distress that can be appropriately relieved with anesthetics, analgesics tranquilizer drugs, or other methods of relieving pain and distress. Category E is pain and distress that is not relieved with such methods.