

SB 181 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

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Meeting Dates: 5/13, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure 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. Excludes procedures performed on a dog or cat for the purpose of veterinary education or clinical veterinary research from the prohibition.

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact

Revenue impact: No revenue impact

Senate vote: Ayes, 24; Nays, 3; Excused, 3

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current state-funded research on cats and dogs
- Concerns about the Oregon National Primate Research Center

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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. Ch. 54 Sect. 2143 directed the United States Department of Agriculture (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. USDA [rules](#) require research facilities to report annually on the animals used for research and to categorize the research procedures on a B to E pain and distress scale.

The USDA issued an [Animal Care Tech Note](#) in 2023 with guidance for research facilities on categorizing procedure on animals involving pain and distress. Categories B and C include animals either not yet subject to research procedures or who are in procedures that do not cause pain or distress. Category D includes procedures involving pain and distress that can be appropriately relieved with anesthetics, analgesics, tranquilizer drugs, or other methods of relieving pain and distress. Category E includes procedures involving pain or distress that is not relieved with such methods because it would have adversely affected the procedures.