

SB 181 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Broadman

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/07/25

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

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Broadman, Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, McLane, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/2, 4/7

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. The amendment defines terms and excludes veterinary education and clinical veterinary research from the prohibition.

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
- How 'medically necessary' is defined

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

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.