

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2850

To amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that healthy research dogs and cats are adopted into suitable homes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2019

Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. KATKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that healthy research dogs and cats are adopted into suitable homes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Humane Retirement
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADOPTION POLICY FOR PUB-**
7 **LIC HEALTH SERVICE AGENCIES WITH RE-**
8 **SPECT TO RETIRED DOGS AND CATS.**

9 Section 495 of the Public Health Service Act (42
10 U.S.C. 289d) is amended by adding the following:

1 “(f) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADOPTION POLICY FOR
2 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO
3 RETIRED DOGS AND CATS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning one year after
5 the date of the enactment of this subsection, guide-
6 lines of the Secretary under subsection (a)(3) shall
7 require animal care committees described in such
8 subsection that conduct biomedical and behavioral
9 research at Public Health Service funded Federal
10 agencies to, after the completion of any testing or
11 research involving a dog or cat and prior to
12 euthanizing such dog or cat, make a reasonable ef-
13 fort to offer such dog or cat for adoption, if suitable,
14 in accordance with the following:

15 “(A) Such an animal care committee shall,
16 after the completion of such testing or research
17 involving a dog or cat and prior to euthanizing
18 such dog or cat, assess the health and tempera-
19 ment of the dog or cat and determine whether
20 it is suitable for adoption.

21 “(B) If found to be suitable for adoption,
22 such an animal care committee shall make rea-
23 sonable efforts to offer for adoption the dog or
24 cat to an adopting party.

1 “(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
2 this subsection shall be construed as—

3 “(A) creating a duty upon an adopting
4 party to accept a dog or cat offered by an ani-
5 mal care committee described in paragraph (1);
6 or

7 “(B) prohibiting such committee from
8 euthanizing a dog or cat if the requirements of
9 this subsection are otherwise met.

10 “(3) LIABILITY.—An animal care committee de-
11 scribed in paragraph (1) and any officer, director,
12 employee, or agent of such committee are immune
13 from civil liability for any act or omission relating to
14 the adoption of a dog or cat pursuant to this sub-
15 section.

16 “(4) ADOPTING PARTY DEFINED.—For pur-
17 poses of this subsection, the term ‘adopting party’
18 means—

19 “(A) an individual adopting a dog or cat
20 through private placement;

21 “(B) an animal rescue organization;

22 “(C) an animal shelter organization;

23 “(D) a society for the prevention of cruelty
24 to animals;

25 “(E) a humane society; or

1 “(F) an animal protective association that
2 operates physical animal sheltering facilities
3 and offers households pets to the public for
4 adoption by way of an established adoption pro-
5 gram.”.

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