

Union Calendar No. 442

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7789

[Report No. 117-611]

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2022

Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. DEFazio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

DECEMBER 8, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana

DECEMBER 8, 2022

Reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes.

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 “Planning for Animal
5 Wellness Act” or the “PAW Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP GUIDELINES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
9 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
10 Emergency Management Agency.

11 (2) WORKING GROUP.—The term “working
12 group” means the advisory working group estab-
13 lished under subsection (b).

14 (b) WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
16 establish an advisory working group.

17 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall consist
18 of—

19 (1) not less than 2 representatives of State gov-
20 ernments with experience in animal emergency man-
21 agement;

22 (2) not less than 2 representatives of local gov-
23 ernments with experience in animal emergency man-
24 agement;

1 (3) not less than 2 representatives from aca-
2 demia;

3 (4) not less than 2 veterinary experts;

4 (5) not less than 2 representatives from non-
5 profit organizations working to address the needs of
6 households pets and service animals in emergencies
7 or disasters;

8 (6) representatives from the Federal Animal
9 Emergency Management Working Group; and

10 (7) any other members determined necessary by
11 the Administrator.

12 (d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

13 (1) encourage and foster collaborative efforts
14 among individuals and entities working to address
15 the needs of household pets, service and assistance
16 animals, and captive animals, as appropriate, in
17 emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and
18 recovery; and

19 (2) review best practices and Federal guidance,
20 as of the date of enactment of this Act, on con-
21 gregate and noncongregate sheltering and evacuation
22 planning relating to the needs of household pets,
23 service and assistance animals, and captive animals,
24 as appropriate, in emergency and disaster prepared-
25 ness, response, and recovery.

1 (e) GUIDANCE DETERMINATION.—Not later than 1
2 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working
3 group shall determine whether the best practices and Fed-
4 eral guidance described in subsection (d)(2) are sufficient.

5 (f) NEW GUIDANCE.—Not later than 540 days after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, if the Administrator,
7 in consultation with the working group, determines that
8 the best practices and Federal guidance described in para-
9 graph subsection (d)(2) are insufficient, the Adminis-
10 trator, in consultation with the working group, shall pub-
11 lish updated Federal guidance.

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