

HELP PASS THE ILLINOIS

BEAGLE FREEDOM BILL

HB4297, SB 2356



Officially known as the ‘Research Animal Retirement Bill’, this is a simple, commonsense, and compassionate proposal to help rescue dogs and cats from taxpayer funded Illinois research laboratories. The legislation would facilitate a relationship between laboratories and registered non-profit animal rescue organizations so the animals get a chance at freedom and a family when the experiment is over.

DEFICIENCY OF LAW

The law is needed because there exists no guideline or policy covering this aspect of laboratory animal welfare. Current federal and state legislation offers an array of regulations that govern the animal's care from bedding, food and water access, ventilation, pain management, and more, except for what happens to them when the experiment is over.

Sadly many research dogs and cats are summarily euthanized at the end of the testing even if they are healthy. If a dog or cat is adopted it is usually at the individual discretion and volunteer time of a laboratory worker. There exists no mechanism for Illinois citizens to adopt one of these dogs or cats for which their taxpayer dollars pay.

SUPPORT THE ‘RIGHT TO RESCUE’

LEGISLATIVE IMPACT



Similar legislation has already passed in Connecticut, California, Minnesota, and Nevada and is pending in several other states.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES:

- This bill simply asks that IL laboratories make a good faith effort at contacting relevant animal rescue organizations to do the adoption work. If those organizations cannot place the dog or cat, the research lab is free to euthanize them as they would have otherwise.
- This bill would allow Illinois to demonstrate that it sets a gold standard for research ethics and animal welfare.
- This bill helps bridge the differences between people over the controversial issue of animal testing in a very reasonable manner.
- This bill allows for the waiver of all liability from the research laboratory and offers them protection with complete confidentiality if they so choose.

WHAT THIS BILL DOES NOT DO:

- This bill leaves the discretion to the veterinary professionals to determine if a dog or cats is healthy enough for post-research adoption.
- This bill does not interfere with the research process or grant requests.
- This bill does not require research labs to assume any extra cost, provide transportation, veterinary care, or financial assistance.
- This bill does not require any at capacity shelter or rescue group to assume responsibility for these animals; it only gives them the opportunity if they so choose.

Beagle Freedom Project is proud to support this legislation. As the leading research animal rescue and advocacy organization in the country it has successfully demonstrated that rescued research animals are no different than the dogs or cats countless millions of Americans share their homes with. Beagles are the breed of choice for experiments because of they gentle, docile nature – the same great qualities that make them wonderful family companions.

After all these animals endure for our academic curiosities they deserve a chance at a life, at liberation, and at love.

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