

Department of Planning and Budget
2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1417

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Stanley

3. Committee: Passed the Senate.

4. Title: Animal testing facilities; adoption of dogs and cats; civil penalty.

5. Summary: The substitute bill provides that any animal testing facility that no longer has need for a dog or cat in its possession that does not pose a health or safety risk to the public or welfare of the animal shall (i) offer for release such dog or cat to a releasing agency for eventual adoption or for adoption through a private placement or (ii) in the case of a testing facility operated by an agency or institution of higher education, develop its own adoption program, provided that such program maintains records that comply with § 3.2-6557. Such animal testing facility shall keep such offer for release open for a reasonable length of time, up to three weeks, prior to euthanizing such dog or cat. An animal testing facility may enter into an agreement with a releasing agency for the implementation of the provisions of this section. An animal testing facility shall not be liable for any harm caused by or any defect suffered by any dog or cat adopted pursuant to this section.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It is anticipated that any fiscal impact from this legislation to the state's public research institutions can be absorbed by those institutions. The Code authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action in the appropriate circuit court to enforce the provisions of this article, and establishes a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 and court costs and attorney fees which are payable into the state treasury.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; public research institutions; localities; Office of the Attorney General; courts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.