

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to convene the Task Force on*
3 *Transparency in Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities; report.*

4 [H 580]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1.** *§ 1. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in collaboration with the State Council of*
8 *Higher Education for Virginia (the Task Force), shall convene the Task Force on Transparency in*
9 *Publicly Funded Animal Testing Facilities for the purpose of identifying potential deficiencies in publicly*
10 *funded animal testing facilities, as that term is defined in § 3.2-6593.2 of the Code of Virginia, in the*
11 *Commonwealth and recommending methods and context for making certain information about such*
12 *animal testing facilities publicly available, including information pertaining to instances of*
13 *noncompliance with federal animal welfare regulations, guidelines, or policies, as well as the care, use,*
14 *and approximate numbers of animals used for research, education, testing, or other experimental,*
15 *scientific, or medical purposes by each public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth,*
16 *including animals not covered by the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.).*

17 *The Task Force shall consist of legislators and stakeholders, including (i) representatives from one*
18 *institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with Carnegie research classification R1, one*
19 *institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with Carnegie research classification R2, and one*
20 *institution of higher education in the Commonwealth with Carnegie research classification R3; (ii)*
21 *representatives from three unaffiliated animal protection or animal welfare watchdog groups in the*
22 *Commonwealth; (iii) an individual who serves as a member of an institutional animal care and use*
23 *committee at one of the Commonwealth's publicly funded animal testing facilities; (iv) a*
24 *Virginia-licensed American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine-certified veterinarian functioning in*
25 *the role of attending veterinarian at one of the Commonwealth's publicly funded animal testing facilities;*
26 *(v) a representative of the Virginia Press Association; (vi) a representative of the Virginia Coalition for*
27 *Open Government; (vii) a member of the Virginia Freedom of Information Council; and (viii) two*
28 *members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and two members of the House of*
29 *Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.*

30 *The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations on how to improve transparency at*
31 *publicly funded animal testing facilities in the Commonwealth to the House Committees on Agriculture,*
32 *Chesapeake and Natural Resources, Finance, and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on*
33 *Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and Finance and Appropriations no later than*
34 *November 1, 2024. Such report shall be submitted as a report document as provided in the procedures*
35 *of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports*
36 *and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.*

ENROLLED

HB580ER