



# State Legislative Roundup of Animal Research Legislation

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The **National Association for Biomedical Research** (NABR) compiles information on local, state, and federal legislation/government actions that could impact the biomedical research community. Below is a summary of legislation at the state level that has been introduced in the **2025 legislative session**. This is a working document that will be updated regularly.

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## COLORADO

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### **Adoption and Reporting Bill: Health-Related Research Test Subjects ([SB085](#))**

The bill requires a public or private facility that uses animals for health-related research (health-related research facility) to offer a dog or cat to an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue for the purpose of adoption before euthanizing the animal. If the health-related research facility has an internal adoption program, the facility may first offer the dog or cat for adoption through the internal adoption program before offering the dog or cat to an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue.

A health-related research facility must submit an annual report to the department of public health and environment that includes the following information for the previous year:

- The total number of dogs and cats that are used for health-related research conducted at the health-related research facility;
- The total number of dogs and cats that the health-related research facility transferred to an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue for the purpose of adoption;
- The total number of dogs and cats that the health-related research facility adopted out through an internal adoption program; and

- The name and address of each animal shelter or pet animal rescue to which the health-related research facility transferred a dog or cat for the purpose of adoption.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill has been introduced as a partisan bill (Democrat 4-0) and referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for consideration. The bill was amended and passed out of committee by a vote of (7-2) on 2/27/25 (amended text available soon). It now awaits further action by the full Senate.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to concerns regarding the role of the attending veterinarian in deeming an animal suitable for adoption. This bill should be amended to allow the AV to have full decision-making authority in the best interest of the animal. In addition, this legislation includes reporting requirements that go above and beyond what is already required by USDA. This bill would result in less research and an increased administrative burden at research facilities in Colorado.

NABR's letter of opposition can be read [here](#).

## CONNECTICUT

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### Adoption Bill: An Act Concerning the Adoption of Animals from Animal Breeders and Animal Testing Facilities ([HB6277](#))

To provide a process for the adoption of animals from certain animal breeders and animal testing facilities; require that such animal breeder or animal testing facility keep such offer for release open for a reasonable length of time, up to four weeks, prior to euthanizing such dog, cat, rabbit or guinea pig.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was introduced on 1/23/25 and referred to the Joint Committee on Environment where it remains to be drafted.

**NABR'S POSITION:** TBD - NABR supports research animal adoption when approved by the attending veterinarian and with civil protections in place. However, NABR cannot take an official position until the full bill text is released.

### Alternatives Bill: An Act Concerning the Use of Alternatives to Animal Testing Methods ([HB6278](#))

Requires manufacturers and contract testing facilities to use alternative to animal testing methods when other approved methods exist and such other methods are available, in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 2023. Bill text does not define manufacturers or contract testing facilities.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was introduced on 1/23/25 and referred to the Joint Committee on Environment where it remains to be drafted.

**NABR'S POSITION:** TBD - NABR supports efforts to replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals in drug and vaccine development. However, new drug and vaccine testing technologies to realize this vision at a broad scale and that meet regulatory acceptance are still years away. NABR cannot take an official position until the full bill text is released.

## GEORGIA

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### Pro-Research Bill: A Resolution Recognizing Every Third Thursday in April as Biomedical Research Day ([HR69](#))

The bipartisan bill recognizes the benefits and importance of animal research and the biomedical research workforce.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill passed the Georgia House on 3/3/25 and awaits Senate action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Support - NABR encourages other state legislatures to introduce similar resolutions supporting life-saving animal research.

## INDIANA

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### Adoption Bill: Adoption of Research Animals ([HB1458](#))

Requires public and private research facilities to offer for adoption dogs or cats no longer required for research purposes. Effective: July 1, 2025.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill passed the state House by a vote of (85-4) and has been referred to the Committee on Public Policy in the Senate.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to concerns about the attending veterinarian's authority to determine if an animal is suitable for adoption. This legislation limits the role of the AV and does not align with federal law, which gives the AV authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and decide which animals are suitable for adoption. This bill prohibits animals from being euthanized unless solely required for health and safety reasons, effectively banning basic research and drug development in Indiana with these species...

NABR's letter of opposition can be read [here](#). Take Action Alert coming soon.

## IOWA

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### Adoption and Reporting Bill: Ethics in Animal Research Act ([HSB58](#))

This bill provides for the adoption of retired animals confined at qualified research facilities (colleges and universities) for placement in a permanent adoptive home and provides that such animals are not subject to circumstances for purposes of doing any of the following: (1) Administering a form of recognized veterinary treatment for the welfare of the animal or reducing or eliminating the animal's suffering or confusion. (2) The conduct of normal animal husbandry practices, including but not limited to an accepted livestock management practice as defined in section 169.3.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill passed out of the Iowa House subcommittee on Higher Education on 2/18/25. No further action is expected.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to onerous reporting requirements on dogs and cats adopted out by research facilities. This bill would also ban state funds from being used to conduct certain category "E" research, although this research is permitted under federal law. In addition, this bill would prohibit devocalization or acquiring devocalized dogs and cats for research and require redundant reporting on animal use for regents' institutions in Iowa.

## MARYLAND

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### Adoption and Reporting Bill: Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Licensing and Regulations ([SB535](#))

This bill would require each research facility and testing facility in the State that uses animals in research, education, or testing to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture; applying certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; establishing a State Inspector of Animal Welfare in the Department to inspect research facilities and testing facilities; requiring a research facility and a testing facility to notify the State Inspector of certain violations; etc.

**LATEST ACTION:** A hearing on this bill occurred on 2/27/25 in the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. There is no further action to report at this time.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to reporting requirements and additional inspection requirements redundant with existing federal oversight. Under current federal law, research facilities are subject to unannounced USDA inspections and must comply with the Animal Welfare Act as well as the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

NABR's letter of opposition can be read [here](#).

### Anti-Research and Alternatives Bill: Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Regulation ([SB536](#))

This bill would establish requirements for the use and treatment of dogs or cats by a research facility or testing facility; prohibiting a research facility and testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes and performing devocalization procedures on dogs or cats; prohibiting a research facility and testing facility from using traditional animal test methods under certain circumstances; etc.

**LATEST ACTION:** A hearing on this bill occurred on 2/27/25 in the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. There is no further action to report at this time.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to prohibiting the use of certain dogs and cats in research as well as traditional animal test methods. NABR supports efforts to replace, reduce, and refine the use of animals in drug and vaccine development. However, new drug and vaccine testing technologies to realize this vision at a broad scale and that meet regulatory acceptance are still years away.

NABR's letter of opposition can be read [here](#).

### Adoption and Reporting Bill: Research Facilities and Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Adoption and Reporting Requirements ([SB537](#))

Bill would apply to certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities; requiring certain research facilities and testing facilities to submit to the Department of Agriculture certain information regarding dogs and cats on or before January 31 each year; and requiring a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before December 31 each year.

**LATEST ACTION:** A hearing on this bill occurred on 2/27/25 in the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. There is no further action to report at this time.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to onerous administrative burden for Maryland scientists working with dogs and cats in biomedical research.

NABR's letter of opposition can be read [here](#).

## **Alternatives Bill: Animal Testing and Research - Alternative Nonanimal Test Methods (HB1448)**

Prohibiting certain research facilities in the State from using a traditional animal test method if an alternative nonanimal test method has received certain approval or the requirement to use a traditional animal test method is waived; requiring certain research facilities to conduct testing using traditional animal test methods in a certain manner; requiring the Attorney General to enforce the Act; etc.

**LATEST ACTION:** A hearing has been scheduled for 3/10/25 at 1PM in the House Health and Government Operations Committee. The hearing will stream on their YouTube channel at this [link](#).

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to mandating onerous reporting requirements surrounding traditional animal models. This bill would require researchers to report on the number of animals used in research, which is redundant with federal requirements. It would also require facilities to provide reasons for not using alternative models to the Maryland attorney general, a move seen by NABR as an effort to criminalize research.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

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### **Adoption and Reporting Bill: An Act Further Protecting Research Animals (SD1898)**

The bill requires a facility that uses animals for health-related research (health-related research facility) to offer a dog or cat to an animal shelter or a pet animal rescue for the purpose of adoption before euthanizing the animal. It also requires annual reporting of dogs and cats used in research. This legislation mirrors bills in other states looking to increase reporting requirements and mandate research animal adoption policies and follows several years of similar legislation introduced in Massachusetts.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was introduced on 1/17/25 and has not received further action in the Massachusetts Senate.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to onerous reporting requirements for researchers.

### **Adoption and Defunding Animal Research Bill: An Act Providing that No State Funds will be Allocated to Any Agency, School, University, etc. That Does Research on Animals (SD839)**

Any animals that are currently being used for research purposes will have to be rehomed either by adoption or sanctuaries that can care for them. They will not be euthanized. If homes cannot be found for them, they will be cared for by the institutions that have them until their natural death (no research on them). The state may use the canceled funds to provide for their care.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was introduced on 1/14/25 and is unlikely to receive further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to prohibiting state funds for animal research.

## Increased Regulations Bill: An Act to Protect Nonhuman Primate Infants in Research Institutions and Product Testing Facilities ([SD1434](#))

Prohibits nonhuman primate “infants” in Massachusetts public and private research and product testing facilities from being removed from their respective biological mothers for the purposes of research, experimentation, or product testing; requires the commissioner of public health to promulgate regulations to implement the Act no later than 90 days after passage of the Act.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was introduced on 1/16/25 and has not received further action in the Massachusetts Senate.

**NABR’S POSITION:** Oppose- This bill not only constitutes an attack on academic freedom but would also impact current high level vision studies aimed at understanding Autism and social disorders conducted at Harvard Medical School.

## Alternatives Bill: An Act Concerning the Use of Animals in Product Testing ([HD1914](#))

No manufacturer or contract testing facility in the Commonwealth shall use a traditional animal test method for which a valid alternative test method exists. No provision shall be construed to apply to a test method conducted for the purposes of medical research. The commissioner of public health shall promulgate regulations to implement this act no later than 180 days following passage of this act.

Although there is an exemption for medical research included in the current bill text, this can easily be amended to include biomedical research.

**LATEST ACTION:** The bill was filed on 1/15/25 and has not received further action in the Massachusetts House. It has been reintroduced each year of the last five legislative sessions.

**NABR’S POSITION:** Neutral due to the current exemption for biomedical research in the bill’s language. Bear in mind this bill can easily be amended during the legislative process to include animal research. As such, NABR is monitoring the bill closely.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## Defunding Animal Research and Reporting Bill: Relative to Animal Testing Funded by New Hampshire State Funds ([HB401](#))

This bill prohibits facilities from receiving money from the state of New Hampshire in order to perform tests on animals unless such tests are for the direct benefit of the animals being tested; requires every testing facility in the state to make a report to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate, which includes the number and species of animals used, the type and number of test methods used, and the purpose of the testing for all methods. Effective January 1, 2026.

**LATEST ACTION:** A hearing in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee has been scheduled for 3/5/25. Link available [here](#).

**NABR’S POSITION:** Oppose due to prohibiting state funds for animal research and additional reporting requirements. The bill amounts to a state ban on animal research.

## NEW YORK

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### Study Bill: Creates a Task Force on Animal Laws ([A181](#))

Establishes a task force on animal laws to study, evaluate and determine how to improve the relationship between animals and humans and the state's animal protection laws and requires the task force to study laws, rules, and regulations governing animals, including but not limited to companion animals, farm animals or animals raised for food producing purposes, wildlife and animals used in entertainment, research or experimentation or any other field that governs the use or treatment of animals.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was referred to the Agriculture Committee on 1/8/25 and awaits further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose- Study bills like the one proposed here are often used to push the animal rights agenda and target ALL animal use operations.

### Adoption and Reporting Bill: Requires Higher Education Research Facilities to Make Available Certain Information Regarding the Adoption of Dogs or Cats on Their Website ([A1645](#))

Requires higher education research facilities to make available certain information regarding the adoption of dogs or cats; provides that facility may enter into an agreement with an animal rescue and shelter organization, a duly incorporated humane society, or an animal protective association that operates physical animal sheltering facilities and offers household pets to the public for adoption by way of an established adoption program, that is exempt from taxes.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was referred to the Education Committee on 1/10/25 and awaits further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to increased administrative burden for scientists using dogs and cats in biomedical research. Animal right groups will likely use this publicly shared information to further target research universities in New York.

## OREGON

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### Reporting Bill: Relating to Public Records Disclosure by Public University Foundations; Creating New Provisions; Amending ORS ([HB3213](#))

Requires that public university foundations are subject to the public records laws of this state. Specifies the records that are exempt from disclosure. It declares an emergency and becomes law when the governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.4). Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

#### AS WRITTEN, THIS BILL EXEMPTS:

*(30) The name, home address, professional address or location of a person that is engaged in, or that provides goods or services for, medical research at Oregon Health and Science University that is conducted using animals other than rodents. This subsection does not apply to Oregon Health and Science University press releases, websites or other publications circulated to the general public.*

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was referred to the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee on 1/17/25 and is awaiting further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Support - under current state law, Oregon Health and Science University is required to share certain animal research information on their website each year. HB3213 reiterates protections under state open records laws to prevent researchers from having their personal information shared and potentially leading to targeted attacks by animal rights activists.

## PENNSYLVANIA

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### **Adoption Bill: An Act Providing for Prohibition on Sale of Dogs and Cats Bred by Certain Persons, for Duty of Persons, Kennels and Animal Testing Facilities to Offer Dogs and Cats for Adoption and for Whistleblower Protection; and Imposing Penalties. ([HB296](#))**

Prohibits the sale of dogs and cats bred by certain persons; provides for the duty of persons, kennels and animal testing facilities to offer dogs & cats for adoption and for whistleblower protection; provides penalties for violations of such prohibition; provides that an animal testing facility may develop its own adoption program; requires the facility to offer for the release of a dog or cat to a release agency for adoption or for adoption through a private placement through a federal agency or a State agency.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was referred to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on 1/23/25 and is awaiting further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to onerous and duplicative reporting requirements for dogs and cats adopted out by Pennsylvania facilities.

## VERMONT

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### **Prohibitive, Alternatives and Reporting Bill: An Act Relating to Prohibiting the Use of Animals in Product Testing ([H14](#))**

This bill proposes to prohibit the use of animals in product testing at product testing facilities. Product testing facility is defined in the bill as *an entity, institution, business partnership, corporation, association, or other legal relationship that tests chemicals, ingredients, drugs, vaccines, product formulations, or products*. The Attorney General has the authority to make rules, investigations, and bring civil actions and remedies for noncompliance.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry on 1/9/25 and is awaiting further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to mandating onerous reporting requirements surrounding traditional animal models. This bill would require researchers to report on the number of animals used in research, which is redundant with federal requirements. It would also require facilities to provide reasons for not using alternative models to the Vermont attorney general, a move seen by NABR as an effort to criminalize research.

## VIRGINIA

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### **Prohibitive Bill: Possession, Sale, Transfer, or Breeding of Nonhuman Primates Prohibited, Penalties. Prohibits the Possession, Sale, Transfer, or Breeding of Nonhuman Primates and Controls the Ownership of Such Primates Already in the Commonwealth ([HB1768](#))**

Possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of nonhuman primates prohibited; penalties. Prohibits the possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of nonhuman primates and controls the ownership of such primates already in the Commonwealth. The bill exempts certain institutions, qualified transporters passing through the Commonwealth, those in possession of a state or federal exhibitor's license, and

those in lawful possession of a nonhuman primate prior to July 1, 2026, subject to certain conditions. The bill also provides a procedure for the seizure of a primate in certain circumstances. Any violation of the provisions of the bill is a Class 1 misdemeanor or, for a willful act or omission in the care, control, or containment of a nonhuman primate, a Class 6 felony.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was left in the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee and will not receive further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Neutral - this bill does not apply to research facilities as defined in the federal Animal Welfare Act. However, once laws like these are on the books, they carry a risk of being amended later to include research facilities. As such, NABR will be monitoring this effort to ban primates in the state of Virginia closely.

### **Reporting Bill: Animal Testing Facilities; Public Notification ([SB1127](#))**

Requires animal testing facilities to display a link to their annual report (APHIS Form 7023), as submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act, on the homepage or landing page of the facility's or manufacturer's website on or before December 1 for the preceding federal fiscal year. Requires any animal testing facility, contract testing facility or manufacturer that uses an animal test method to display such report publicly on its website. Requires such facility to notify the leadership of such institution of higher education, including the president, dean, board of visitors or board of trustees.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill passed the House and Senate and is awaiting Governor Youngkin's signature to become Virginia state law.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Neutral – this information is already publicly available on the USDA's website.

### **Reporting Bill: Animal Testing Facilities Operated by Public Institutions of Higher Education; Report ([SB1481](#))**

Provides that public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth that operate an animal testing facility shall publish annually a report detailing: progress on replacement, reduction, and refinement efforts; a detailed methodology for measuring such progress; the total number of animals used by such institution for research, education, testing, experimental, scientific, or biomedical purposes; disposition of all animals at such institution to include those animals euthanized, lost, adopted, transferred, traded, or sold; and an annual report.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was left in the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee and will not receive further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to onerous reporting requirements proposed in this bill. Animal rights groups would likely use this information to target public institutions in Virginia that use animal models in research.

## **WASHINGTON**

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### **Reporting Bill: Concerning the Washington National Primate Research Center at the University of Washington ([HB1617](#))**

Requires the Washington National Primate Research Center within the University of Washington to annually publish in a publicly accessible place on its website the number of nonhuman primates, listed by species, (a) used in research; (b) used in breeding; (c) born; (d) purchased or sold; (e) housed in physical contact with other primates of the same species as stable pairs or groups of compatible individuals; (f) injured or died in a manner that resulted in an animal welfare citation by the United States department of agriculture; (g) killed or died as part of research, a test, or a study; and (h) injured or died due to research at the Washington.

**LATEST ACTION:** This bill was referred to the Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce and is pending further action.

**NABR'S POSITION:** Oppose due to the onerous reporting requirements proposed in this bill. Animal rights groups will likely use this information to target nonhuman primate research and researchers at the University of Washington National Primate Research Center.