

ASSEMBLY, No. 4385

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman ROBERT AUTH

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires institutions of higher education to offer cats and dogs no longer used for educational, research, or scientific purposes to animal rescue organizations for adoption.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/28/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning the disposition of cats and dogs used by
2 institutions of higher education for educational, research, or
3 scientific purposes, and supplementing Title 18A of the New
4 Jersey Statutes.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8
9 1. a. An institution of higher education, or a facility that
10 conducts research in collaboration with an institution of higher
11 education, that uses cats or dogs for educational, research, or
12 scientific purposes, before euthanizing a cat or dog that is no longer
13 to be used for such purposes, shall first offer the cat or dog to an
14 animal rescue organization for adoption, provided that euthanizing
15 the cat or dog is not required for health or safety reasons. An
16 institution or facility required to offer cats or dogs to an animal
17 rescue organization pursuant to this section may enter into an
18 agreement with an animal rescue organization to implement this
19 section on an on-going basis.

20 b. An institution or facility that provides a cat or dog to an
21 animal rescue organization pursuant to this section shall be immune
22 from any civil liability arising from the transfer of the cat or dog,
23 provided the institution or facility has acted in good faith
24 concerning the health and physical condition of the cat or dog.

25 c. As used in this section, "animal rescue organization" means
26 the same as that term is defined in section 1 of P.L.1941, c.151
27 (C.4:19-15.1).

28
29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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31

32 STATEMENT

33
34 This bill would require institutions of higher education, and
35 related research facilities, to offer cats and dogs no longer used for
36 educational, research, or scientific purposes to animal rescue
37 organizations for adoption prior to euthanizing the animals. The
38 bill would not apply to cats or dogs that are required to be
39 euthanized for health or safety reasons. Under the bill, an
40 institution or facility that is required to offer cats or dogs for
41 adoption through an animal rescue organization may enter into an
42 agreement with an animal rescue organization to meet this
43 requirement on an on-going basis. Also, under the bill, an
44 institution or facility that provides a cat or dog to an animal rescue
45 organization would be immune from any civil liability resulting
46 from the transfer of the animal, provided the institution or facility
47 acted in good faith concerning the health and physical condition of
48 the cat or dog.