SENATE, No. 1479

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Sponsored by:
Senator JENNIFER BECK
District 11 (Monmouth)
Senator BRIAN P. STACK
District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Bateman

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: 5/2/2017)
AN ACT concerning the disposition of cats and dogs used by
institutions of higher education for educational, research, or
scientific purposes, and supplementing Title 18A of the New
Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

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

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

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

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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