

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

I am planning to attend the hearing set for tomorrow, March 20, 2015 and recommend that the committee joint favorably report HB 5707, which would require that certain higher education facilities using cats or dogs in their research, offer such cats or dogs to animal rescue organizations prior to euthanizing any such cat or dog. The bill will also include language requiring proper shelter for dogs and protection in extreme weather conditions.

This bill would empower animal rescue organizations to give animals used for research a second chance to live out the remainder of their lives in a loving home instead of being discarded as an object that is no longer useful and being killed for this reason.

The bill would also close the loop holes in the law that currently exist and require; soundly constructed, adequately insulated (given a dog's age and physical condition and the thickness/length of the dogs' hair/fur), sufficiently clean and obstruction-free inside and outside, easy access to unfrozen water, a normal day/night lighting cycle, contain sufficient space for a dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down, and a floor that is neither cold/wet dirt nor injurious wire. Additionally, animal control officers will be empowered by the law to protect dogs before they are in terrible peril. The shelter bill will allow for intervention when there is a weather advisory or when the weather poses a risk to the the dog's health or safety.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to tomorrow's hearing.

Best Regards,

Stephanie

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