

**House Study Bill 58 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON HIGHER  
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON  
COLLINS)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act providing for the ethical use of research animals.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 162.4A, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **162.4A Operation of a research facility — certificate of**  
4 **registration.**

5 1. A research facility shall only operate pursuant to a  
6 certificate of registration issued by the department as provided  
7 in section 162.2A. The

8 2. In order to comply with the provisions of this chapter,  
9 a research facility shall maintain must do all of the following:

10 a. Maintain records as required by the department in order  
11 for the department to ensure the research facility's compliance  
12 with the provisions of this chapter. A research facility shall  
13 not

14 b. Comply with the provisions of chapter 162A.

15 c. Only purchase a dog or cat from a commercial establishment  
16 that does not have has been issued or renewed a valid  
17 authorization issued or renewed by the department under this  
18 chapter or a similar authorization issued or renewed by an  
19 authorized entity in another state.

20 Sec. 2. Section 162.10, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
21 follows:

22 **162.10 Qualified research facilities — adoption program.**

23 ~~1.~~ As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
24 requires:

25 ~~a.~~ "Animal rescue organization" means a person other than an  
26 animal shelter operating on a nonprofit basis to place unwanted,  
27 abandoned, abused, or stray dogs or cats in permanent adopted  
28 homes as provided by rules adopted by the department.

29 ~~b.~~ (1) "Qualified research facility" means a research  
30 facility, including but not limited to a regents institution,  
31 that conducts experiments on dogs or cats for research,  
32 education, testing, or another scientific purpose; and that  
33 receives moneys from the state or federal government.

34 (2) "Qualified research facility" includes a research  
35 facility that conducts experiments on dogs or cats for

1 ~~research, education, testing, or another scientific purpose, in~~  
2 ~~collaboration with a research facility described in subparagraph~~  
3 ~~(1).~~

4 ~~e. "Retired animal" means a dog or cat confined at a~~  
5 ~~qualified research facility, if the dog or cat has been~~  
6 ~~previously used for research, education, testing, or another~~  
7 ~~scientific purpose; and the dog or cat is no longer required to~~  
8 ~~be confined by the qualified research facility for any of those~~  
9 ~~purposes.~~

10 ~~2.~~ 1. A qualified research facility shall establish an  
11 adoption program for retired animals confined at the qualified  
12 research facility for placement in a permanent adoptive home. In  
13 order to be eligible for adoption under the program, the retired  
14 animal must not have ~~no~~ a substantial medical condition, and must  
15 not pose ~~no~~ a safety risk to the public, that would prevent the  
16 dog's or cat's successful integration into a permanent adoptive  
17 home.

18 ~~3.~~ 2. Once a dog or cat becomes a retired animal and is  
19 eligible for adoption under the adoption program, the qualified  
20 research facility must do at least one of the following:

21 a. Offer to transfer ownership and custody of the retired  
22 animal to an animal shelter or animal rescue organization to  
23 facilitate the transfer of ownership and custody of the retired  
24 animal to a person for placement into the person's permanent  
25 adoptive home. A qualified research facility must enter into  
26 an agreement with one or more animal shelters or animal rescue  
27 organizations electing to participate in the program.

28 b. Offer to transfer ownership and custody of the retired  
29 animal to a person for private placement in the person's  
30 permanent adoptive home according to an arrangement agreed to by  
31 the qualified research facility and the person.

32 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 162A.1 Short title.

33 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "*Ethics in*  
34 *Animal Research Act*".

35 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 162A.2 Definitions.

1 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
2 requires:

3 1. "Animal" means a vertebrate animal other than a human.

4 2. "Animal rescue organization" means a person, other than an  
5 animal shelter, operating on a nonprofit basis to place unwanted,  
6 abandoned, abused, or stray dogs or cats in permanent adopted  
7 homes as provided by rules adopted by the department.

8 3. a. "Animal research" means the investigation of, or  
9 instruction concerning the structure or function of living  
10 organisms, and the cause, prevention, control, or cure  
11 of diseases, discomfort, impairment, or abnormal conditions  
12 affecting human beings or animals.

13 b. "Animal research" does not include subjecting an animal to  
14 circumstances for purposes of doing any of the following:

15 (1) Administering a form of recognized veterinary treatment  
16 for the purpose of protecting the welfare of the animal, or  
17 reducing or eliminating the animal's suffering or confusion.

18 (2) The conduct of normal animal husbandry practices,  
19 including but not limited to an accepted livestock management  
20 practice as defined in section 169.3.

21 4. "Animal research project" or "project" means to conduct  
22 animal research in order to answer a specific question, to  
23 support or refute a hypothesis, or determine the efficacy or  
24 likelihood of a scientific result.

25 5. "Animal shelter" means the same as defined in section  
26 162.2 operating pursuant to a certificate of registration issued  
27 by the department pursuant to section 162.4.

28 6. "Animal Welfare Act" means the federal Animal Welfare Act,  
29 7 U.S.C. ch. 54, and regulations promulgated by the United States  
30 department of agriculture and published in 9 C.F.R. ch. 1.

31 7. "Board" means the state board of regents.

32 8. "College or university" means an accredited public or  
33 private college or university, including but not limited to  
34 a university under the control of the state board of regents  
35 as provided in chapter 262, or a community college under the

1 jurisdiction of a board of directors for a merged area as  
2 provided in chapter 260C.

3 9. "Department" means the department of agriculture and land  
4 stewardship.

5 10. a. "Devocalization" means a surgical procedure that  
6 changes an animal's vocal apparatus in a manner that alters,  
7 softens, reduces, or eliminates vocal sounds produced by the  
8 animal.

9 b. "Devocalization" includes a surgical procedure described  
10 as ventriculocordectomy or vocal cordectomy that results in  
11 cutting, notching, punching, abrading, lasering, or suturing  
12 tissue associated with an animal's vocal chords.

13 11. "Medically necessary" means a service performed on any  
14 animal that is all of the following:

15 a. Consistent with the symptoms or a diagnosis made in  
16 conformance with recommended veterinary practice standards.

17 b. Reasonably calculated to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure,  
18 alleviate, or prevent the worsening of a condition that, left  
19 untreated, may result in any of the following:

20 (1) The end of life.

21 (2) Pain, suffering, or loss of function.

22 (3) Illness or infirmity.

23 (4) The aggravation of a disability or chronic illness.

24 c. An effective course of treatment for the animal according  
25 to recommended veterinary practice.

26 12. a. "Qualified research facility" means a research  
27 facility that is a college or university, if the research  
28 facility performs animal research using state moneys.

29 b. "Qualified research facility" includes any research  
30 facility that acts under contract with a qualified research  
31 facility.

32 13. "Research facility" means a research facility as defined  
33 in section 162.2 that is required to operate pursuant to a  
34 certificate of registration issued by the department pursuant  
35 section 162.4A.

1 14. "Retired animal" means a dog or cat confined at a  
2 qualified research facility, if the dog or cat has been  
3 previously used as part of an animal research project and the  
4 dog or cat is no longer needed or required to be confined by the  
5 qualified research facility.

6 15. "State agency" means the same as defined in section  
7 8A.101.

8 16. "State moneys" means moneys appropriated or allocated  
9 from the state treasury, including the general fund of the state  
10 or other fund, account, or source of revenue controlled by the  
11 state, including deposits, transfers, and earnings.

12 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **162A.3 Use of state moneys by**  
13 **qualified research facilities — restrictions.**

14 1. a. A qualified research facility shall not use state  
15 moneys to conduct research that causes an animal pain or distress  
16 as described as a category "D" procedure or "E" procedure  
17 published by the United States department of agriculture, animal  
18 and plant health inspection service, under the Animal Welfare  
19 Act.

20 b. Paragraph "a" does not apply to a medically necessary  
21 procedure if the animal undergoes a category "D" procedure  
22 described in paragraph "a" subject to all of the category's  
23 required conditions, including the recommended use of an  
24 appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drug.

25 2. A qualified research facility shall not use state moneys  
26 to conduct research involving devocalization.

27 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **162A.4 Use of state moneys by state**  
28 **agencies under contract.**

29 1. If a state agency enters into a contract with a private  
30 research facility to perform an animal research project, the  
31 contract shall specify the amount and percentage of the total  
32 cost of performing the project financed by state moneys.

33 2. If the state agency determines that the private research  
34 facility performing the animal research has used more state  
35 moneys than required to perform the project, the private research

1 facility shall not be eligible to enter into another contract  
2 with any state agency to perform a project for a twelve-month  
3 period.

4 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **162A.5 Animal research report —**  
5 **qualified research facilities.**

6 1. Not later than March 1 of each year, a qualified research  
7 facility shall prepare and publish an animal research report.  
8 The qualified research facility shall publish the report on its  
9 internet site in a conspicuous location and in a manner that is  
10 easily accessible to the public.

11 2. The animal research report must state for the prior  
12 calendar year all of the following:

13 a. The total amount of state moneys expended by the qualified  
14 research facility to support all animal research projects.

15 b. For each animal research project, the report shall  
16 include for the prior calendar year a list of active animal  
17 research projects performed by the qualified research facility  
18 and financed by state moneys. The report must include for each  
19 project all of the following:

20 (1) The title of the project and a brief statement of its  
21 purpose.

22 (2) The number and species of animals used.

23 (3) (a) The amount equal to the total cost of performing the  
24 project.

25 (b) The amount and percentage of that total cost of  
26 performing the project financed by state moneys.

27 (c) The amount and percentage of that total cost of  
28 performing the project financed by sources other than state  
29 moneys.

30 (4) The expiration date of the project and the expected total  
31 amount of state moneys expended on that date.

32 c. The extent to which the qualified research facility  
33 has complied with the public health service policy on humane  
34 care and use of laboratory animals published by the national  
35 institutes of health, office of laboratory animal welfare, and

1 the applicable provisions of the Animal Welfare Act. The report  
2 must include any corrective action taken in response to a finding  
3 of noncompliance.

4 d. (1) The total number of animals used in an animal  
5 research project that have been placed for adoption, including  
6 animals transferred to animal shelters and animal rescue  
7 organizations.

8 (2) The total number of animals used in a project that  
9 have died, and a brief statement explaining the cause of  
10 death, including why an animal was destroyed and the manner of  
11 destruction.

12 (3) A detailed explanation of specific efforts by the  
13 facility to reduce the use of animals in research. The  
14 explanation must include the number of animals by species used  
15 in research each year for the past three calendar years and  
16 anticipated numbers expected to be used in the next calendar  
17 year.

18 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. **162A.6 State animal research report —**  
19 **state board of regents.**

20 1. Not later than March 1 of each year, the state board of  
21 regents shall prepare and submit a state animal research report  
22 to the governor and general assembly. The state report shall be  
23 a compilation of information in animal research reports submitted  
24 to the board by qualified research facilities according to  
25 requirements established by rules adopted by the board pursuant  
26 to chapter 17A. The board shall publish the state report on  
27 its internet site in a conspicuous location and in a manner  
28 that is easily accessible to the public. The board shall  
29 disseminate information in the state report to interested press  
30 organizations.

31 Sec. 9. CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE.

32 1. The Code editor is directed to transfer section 162.10 to  
33 section 162A.11.

34 2. The Code editor shall correct internal references in the  
35 Code and in any enacted legislation as necessary due to the

1 enactment of this section.

2

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5

BACKGROUND. This bill amends provisions in Code chapter 162  
6 that regulate commercial establishments possessing or controlling  
7 animals, including dogs or cats. A commercial establishment  
8 includes a research facility associated with an educational  
9 or scientific entity, including a state board of regents  
10 institution, concerned with the prevention, control, or cure of  
11 diseases or abnormal conditions of human beings or animals. The  
12 department of agriculture and land stewardship is responsible  
13 for certifying research facilities (Code section 162.4A). A  
14 research facility may participate in an adoption program for dogs  
15 or cats confined at the research facility once the dog or cat is  
16 retired from use (Code section 162.10).

17 BILL'S PROVISIONS — GENERAL. The bill creates new Code  
18 chapter 162A regulating the use of a research animal used by a  
19 qualified research facility performing an animal research project  
20 (project) using state moneys. Such research does not include  
21 providing an animal with recognized veterinary treatment or  
22 normal animal husbandry practices. The bill regulates animal  
23 research performed by a qualified research facility which is  
24 limited to a public or private college or university performing  
25 animal research using state moneys.

26 BILL'S PROVISIONS — RESTRICTIONS. The bill provides that  
27 a qualified research facility is prohibited from using state  
28 moneys to conduct research that causes an animal pain or  
29 distress, unless it is classified as a medically necessary  
30 procedure accompanied by an appropriate anesthetic, analgesic,  
31 or tranquilizing drug. The bill prohibits the practice of  
32 devocalization.

33 BILL'S PROVISIONS — USE OF STATE MONEYS UNDER CONTRACT. The  
34 bill applies to a state agency which enters into a contract  
35 with a private research facility to perform an animal research

1 project. The contract must state the amount and percentage  
2 of the total cost of performing the project financed by state  
3 moneys. The bill requires that the contract specify the amount  
4 and percentage of the total cost of performing the project  
5 financed by state moneys. The bill also provides that if  
6 the private research facility expends more state moneys than  
7 necessary to complete a project, the facility is prohibited  
8 from entering into a similar contract with the state for twelve  
9 months.

10 BILL'S PROVISIONS — REPORTING. The bill provides that not  
11 later than March 1, a qualified research facility must prepare  
12 and publish an animal research report (report). The report  
13 must include information regarding state moneys used to support  
14 projects, a description of the projects and the number and  
15 species of animal used, the amount of state moneys expended,  
16 the extent to which the qualified research facility has complied  
17 with applicable federal standards of care, the disposition of the  
18 animals after they are no longer of research value, and efforts  
19 to reduce the number of animals used. The bill provides that  
20 not later than March 1, the state board of regents must prepare  
21 and submit a state animal research report to the governor and  
22 general assembly. The report shall be prepared as a compilation  
23 using information submitted to the board by qualified research  
24 facilities.

25 BILL'S PROVISIONS — CODE EDITOR DIRECTIVE. The bill provides  
26 for the transfer of the provision allowing for the adoption of  
27 research animals from Code chapter 162 to new Code chapter 162A.