



January 19, 2018

2018 State Legislation Roundup

Each year over 150,000 pieces of state legislation are introduced. NABR is constantly sifting through and analyzing bills that could potentially impact animal research. In the effort to keep our members informed, here are a few of the important state bills we are monitoring and will keep you posted on as we head into a new year:

Mandatory Adoption

Legislation mandating the adoption of research animals, specifically dogs and cats, is shaping up to be as hot a topic in 2018, as it was last year. Thanks to vigilant monitoring and engagement from NABR members, aided by support from the biomedical research community, this legislation failed to pass in Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Maine, North Dakota, and Texas last year. After a hard-fought legislative battle, Illinois was the only state to enact the measure.

Re-homing of dogs and cats previously used in research seems like a benign concept, especially since the majority of research facilities already have preexisting adoption policies. However, details within this legislation can be of concern to the research community. The bills' main proponent

is the Beagle Freedom Project (BFP), an animal rights group whose director of operations is former convicted felon and animal extremist Kevin Kijonaa. The organization opposes animal research and likely wants to use these bills as an avenue to pursue further, more onerous restrictions against lifesaving animal research.

The following states are currently considering this type of legislation:

Delaware: [S.B. 101](#)

Introduced: 06/06/2017; carried over from 2017

Latest Action: 06/28/2017 - Assigned to Health and Human Development Committee in House

Indiana: [S.B. 16](#)

Introduced: 01/03/2018

Latest Action: 01/03/2018 - Referred to Committee on Agriculture; hearing 01/08/2018

Iowa: [H.F. 594](#)

Introduced: 03/16/2017; carried over from 2017

Massachusetts: [H.B. 2454](#)

Introduced: 01/23/2017; carried over from 2017

Latest Action: 06/29/2017 - Referred to committee on Public Health; hearing scheduled for 07/11/2017

Rhode Island: [H. 5161](#)

Introduced: 01/19/2017

Latest Action: 03/08/2017 - Health, Education, and Welfare Committee recommended measure be held for further study.

Animal Welfare

Legislation has been introduced in New Hampshire to charge members of the legislature with studying the state's existing animal cruelty laws. Depending on the make-up of the panel dedicated to this task and the group's recommendations, animal research could be included in legislative efforts. NABR will monitor the bill and provide updates as they develop.

New Hampshire: [H.B. 1385](#)

Introduced: 11/06/2017; carried over from 2017

Latest Action: 01/11/2018 - Referred to committee on Environment and Agriculture; hearing scheduled for 02/13/2018

Animal Breeders

In an effort to tackle the issue of so-called puppy mills, the New York legislature will consider language that would restrict the number of animals breeders can legally breed and sell up to 25. Such a proposal would make breeding within the state difficult, almost impossible, for animal research purposes.

New York: [S. 7025](#)

Introduced: 01/03/2018

Latest Action: 01/03/2018 - Referred to Consumer Protection Committee

Research Funding

Responding to allegations that government-funding for research with canines is wasteful, Senators in Virginia have authored a bill outlawing funding of these studies from the state's General Fund. Note: no biomedical

research projects in the State of Virginia are funded from the General Fund. NABR is engaged with key stakeholders on this matter and will report any newsworthy developments.

Virginia: [S.B. 28](#)

Introduced: 11/20/2017

Latest Action: 01/11/2018 - Reported favorably from Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee with substitute, rereferred to Finance Committee.

For more information about these and other bills please visit www.NABR.org, continue to check your email for the NABR Update, and follow NABR on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).