

SB 638 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires research facilities to offer laboratory animals to animal rescue entity for adoption. Allows for exceptions for health and safety. Provides immunity for transfers of animals to rescue entities done in good faith. Requires reporting to Secretary of State.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Requires research facilities to offer dogs and cats used in research for adoption through private adoption or animal shelter. Allows for exceptions for health, safety, and research needs. Provides immunity for transfer of dogs and cats to animal shelter done in good faith. Requires reporting by non-public facilities to Secretary of State. Defines animal shelter.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, several research facilities use animals in their research. This list includes Oregon Health and Science University, Oregon State University, and the University of Oregon. According to 2017 data from the United States Department of Agriculture there are approximately 8,000 mammals used for scientific research in Oregon, including several dozen dogs and cats.

SB 638 requires that mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish used in research be offered to an animal rescue entity for adoption unless health or safety reasons prevent the facility from doing so. SB 638 also provides immunity from civil liability that results from the good faith transfer of such animals and requires the reporting of animal related statistics to the Secretary of State.