

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4205

AN ACT

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Planning for Animal
3 Wellness Act” or the “PAW Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP GUIDELINES.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
7 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
8 Emergency Management Agency.

9 (2) WORKING GROUP.—The term “working
10 group” means the advisory working group estab-
11 lished under subsection (b).

12 (b) WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 180 days after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
14 establish an advisory working group.

15 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall consist
16 of—

17 (1) not less than 2 representatives of State gov-
18 ernments with experience in animal emergency man-
19 agement;

20 (2) not less than 2 representatives of local gov-
21 ernments with experience in animal emergency man-
22 agement;

23 (3) not less than 2 representatives from aca-
24 demia;

25 (4) not less than 2 veterinary experts;

1 (5) not less than 2 representatives from non-
2 profit organizations working to address the needs of
3 households pets and service animals in emergencies
4 or disasters;

5 (6) representatives from the Federal Animal
6 Emergency Management Working Group; and

7 (7) any other members determined necessary by
8 the Administrator.

9 (d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

10 (1) encourage and foster collaborative efforts
11 among individuals and entities working to address
12 the needs of household pets, service and assistance
13 animals, and captive animals, as appropriate, in
14 emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and
15 recovery; and

16 (2) review best practices and Federal guidance,
17 as of the date of enactment of this Act, on con-
18 gregate and noncongregate sheltering and evacuation
19 planning relating to the needs of household pets,
20 service and assistance animals, and captive animals,
21 as appropriate, in emergency and disaster prepared-
22 ness, response, and recovery.

23 (e) NO COMPENSATION.—The members of the work-
24 ing group shall serve on the working group on a voluntary
25 basis.

1 (f) GUIDANCE DETERMINATION.—Not later than 1
2 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working
3 group shall determine whether the best practices and Fed-
4 eral guidance described in subsection (d)(2) are sufficient.

5 (g) NEW GUIDANCE.—Not later than 540 days after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, if the Administrator,
7 in consultation with the working group, determines that
8 the best practices and Federal guidance described in sub-
9 section (d)(2) are insufficient, the Administrator, in con-
10 sultation with the working group, shall publish updated
11 Federal guidance.

12 (h) SUNSET.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
14 the working group shall terminate on the date that
15 is 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

16 (2) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may ex-
17 tend the date described in paragraph (1) if the Ad-
18 ministrator determines an extension is appropriate.

Passed the Senate August 6, 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

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