

SSB 5212 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on College & Workforce Development

ADOPTED 04/09/2019

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.92
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) A higher education facility that receives public money,
6 including tax exempt status, or a facility that provides research in
7 collaboration with a higher education facility, that utilizes dogs or
8 cats for scientific, educational, or research purposes, upon
9 conclusion of a dog or cat's use for scientific, educational, or
10 research purposes shall:

11 (a) Have the facility's attending veterinarian or designee assess
12 the health of the dog or cat and determine if the dog or cat is
13 suitable for adoption, consistent with guidelines promulgated by the
14 American veterinary medical association; and

15 (b) Make reasonable efforts to offer the dog or cat for adoption,
16 when the dog or cat is deemed suitable for adoption, through the
17 facility's own adoption program or through an animal care and control
18 agency or an animal rescue group as defined in RCW 82.04.040. A
19 facility that offers dogs or cats for adoption to an animal care and
20 control agency or an animal rescue group under this section may enter
21 into an agreement to facilitate adoptions.

22 (2) Nothing in this section shall:

23 (a) Create a duty upon an animal care and control agency or an
24 animal rescue group to accept a dog or cat offered for adoption by a
25 research facility; or

26 (b) Prohibit a facility from completing scientific research or
27 educational use prior to making a suitability for adoption
28 determination.

29 (3) A research facility that provides a dog or cat for adoption
30 pursuant to this section is immune from any civil liability for acts
31 or omissions relating to the adoption of a dog or cat pursuant to

1 subsection (1) of this section, other than acts constituting willful
2 or wanton misconduct.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the
4 homes for animal heroes act."

5 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Strikes the definition for "licensed animal adoption organization" and replaces it with a reference to an "animal care and control agency or an animal rescue group" as defined in RCW 82.04.040, which means a nonprofit organization that:

(1) Is exempt from federal income taxation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code;

(2) Is registered as a charity with the Washington Secretary of State;

(3) Has as its primary purpose the prevention of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or homelessness of animals; and

(4) Exclusively obtains dogs, cats, or other animals for placement that are stray or abandoned, surrendered or relinquished by animal owners or caretakers, transferred from other animal rescue organizations, or were born in the care of such a nonprofit organization.

--- END ---