

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5422

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants for the prevention of cruelty to animals to States that have enacted laws prohibiting the devocalization of dogs and cats for purposes of convenience.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 27, 2010

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants for the prevention of cruelty to animals to States that have enacted laws prohibiting the devocalization of dogs and cats for purposes of convenience.

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

3       **SECTION 1. ANIMAL CRUELTY PREVENTION GRANTS TO**  
4                       **STATES WITH LAWS PROHIBITING DEVO-**  
5                       **CALIZATION OF DOGS AND CATS.**

6       (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
7       may make grants on a competitive basis for the prevention  
8       of cruelty to animals to States that have enacted laws pro-

1 hibiting the performance of devocalization procedures on  
2 dogs and cats for purposes of convenience.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary may only award a  
4 grant under this section to a State that—

5 (1) has enacted a law imposing criminal pen-  
6 alties on any individual who performs a devocaliza-  
7 tion procedure on a dog or cat for purposes of con-  
8 venience; and

9 (2) submits an application at such time, in such  
10 form, and accompanied by such information and as-  
11 surances as the Secretary may require, including a  
12 copy of the law described in paragraph (1).

13 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a  
15 grant under this section shall use the grant funds  
16 for activities that prevent or promote the prevention  
17 of cruelty to animals. Such activities may include—

18 (A) care for animals that are unwanted or  
19 have been abused; and

20 (B) public education about—

21 (i) animal abuse and how individuals  
22 may prevent such abuse or care for ani-  
23 mals that are unwanted or have been  
24 abused; and

1 (ii) the effects of performing a devo-  
2 calization procedure on a dog or cat for  
3 purposes of convenience.

4 (2) SUBGRANTS.—A State that receives a grant  
5 under this section may use grant funds to make  
6 grants to entities that agree to use such funds to  
7 carry out the activities described in paragraph (1).

8 (d) GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary may not award  
9 more than \$1,000,000 under this section to a single State.

10 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) DEVOCALIZATION PROCEDURE.—The term  
12 “devocalization procedure” means a surgical proce-  
13 dure that prevents an animal’s larynx from pro-  
14 ducing sound or reduces the ability of the larynx to  
15 produce sound.

16 (2) FOR PURPOSES OF CONVENIENCE.—The  
17 term “for purposes of convenience” means, with re-  
18 spect to the performance of a devocalization proce-  
19 dure on an animal, that the procedure is not per-  
20 formed primarily for the therapeutic benefit of the  
21 animal.

22 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
24 \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

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