

**SB 638 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Judiciary**

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**Prepared By:** Michael Lantz, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/2, 5/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires research facilities to offer dogs and cats used in laboratory research for adoption through private adoption process or animal shelter. Allows exceptions for health, safety, and research needs. Provides facility civil immunity for transfers of dogs and cats to animal shelters done in good faith. Requires annual reporting by non-public research facilities to Secretary of State. Provides definitions.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Use of beagles in laboratory research
- Privacy concerns for research companies
- Statutes in other states
- Content of amendments

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-A3 Makes reports to Secretary of State (SOS) exempt from disclosure. Allows SOS to disclose aggregate data upon request.

**BACKGROUND:**

In Oregon, several research facilities use animals in their research, including 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.

Senate Bill 638 A requires that dogs and cats used in laboratory research be offered for adoption through a private process or animal shelter unless health and safety concerns or research needs prevent the facility from doing so. The measure also provides research facilities immunity from civil liability that results from the good faith transfer of laboratory dogs and cats to animal shelters. Finally, SB 638 A requires non-public research facilities to make annual reports to the Secretary of State on the number of dogs and cats used in research or released to shelters and provides definitions for animal shelter, laboratory research, and research facility.