

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4205

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2022

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP GUIDELINES.**

7 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

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

4 (2) WORKING GROUP.—The term “working
5 group” means the advisory working group estab-
6 lished under subsection (b).

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

10 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall consist
11 of—

12 (1) not less than 2 representatives of State gov-
13 ernments with experience in animal emergency man-
14 agement;

15 (2) not less than 2 representatives of local gov-
16 ernments with experience in animal emergency man-
17 agement;

18 (3) not less than 2 representatives from aca-
19 demia;

20 (4) not less than 2 veterinary experts;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (f) NEW GUIDANCE.—Not later than 540 days after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, if the Administrator,
25 in consultation with the working group, determines that

1 the best practices and Federal guidance described in para-
2 graph subsection (d)(2) are insufficient, the Adminis-
3 trator, in consultation with the working group, shall pub-
4 lish updated Federal guidance.

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