

1 S.161

2 Introduced by Senator Ashe

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Animal cruelty; animal testing

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the
7 use of vertebrate animals in nonmedical research testing if there is an
8 alternative test method that does not use vertebrate animals and provides
9 equivalent or better scientific information than the animal test it replaces.

10 An act relating to alternatives to animal testing

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. chapter 196 is added to read:

13 CHAPTER 196. ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING

14 § 4101. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this chapter:

16 (1) “Alternative method” means:

17 (A) a test method or strategy that does not use animals and provides
18 information of equivalent or better scientific quality and relevance than an
19 animal test; or

1 (B) if there is no appropriate nonanimal method or strategy, a test
2 method that uses fewer animals or uses animals in a manner that causes the
3 animals less suffering.

4 (2) “Animal” means a live vertebrate nonhuman animal.

5 (3) “Animal test method” means a process or procedure using animals to
6 obtain information on the characteristics of a chemical or agent or the
7 biological effect of exposure to a chemical or agent under specified conditions.

8 (4) “Contract testing facility” means any partnership, corporation,
9 association, or other legal relationship that tests chemicals, ingredients, product
10 formulations, or products in Vermont.

11 (5) “ICCVAM” means the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for
12 the Validation of Alternative Methods, a federal committee operating as a
13 mechanism for recommending appropriate and valid test methods to relevant
14 federal agencies.

15 (6) “Manufacturer” means any partnership, corporation, association, or
16 other legal relationship that produces chemicals, ingredients, product
17 formulations, or products in Vermont.

18 (7) “Medical research”:

19 (A) means research related to:

20 (i) the causes, diagnosis, treatment, control, or prevention of
21 physical or mental diseases and impairments of humans and animals; or

1 (ii) the development of biomedical products, devices, or drugs as
2 defined in 21 U.S.C. § 321(g)(1); and

3 (B) does not include the testing of an ingredient that was formerly
4 used in a drug, tested with traditional animal methods to substantiate its safety
5 for human use, and is now proposed for use in a product other than a
6 biomedical product, medical device, or drug.

7 § 4102. ALTERNATIVE ANIMAL TEST METHODS; REQUIRED USE

8 (a) Manufacturers and contract testing facilities shall not use animal test
9 methods for which an alternative method is available.

10 (b) This section shall not apply to any animal test performed for the
11 purpose of medical research.

12 (c) A manufacturer or contract testing facility that violates subsection (a) of
13 this section shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000.00.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.