

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 454

BY REPRESENTATIVES ZERINGUE, BISHOP, HOWARD, JONES, NANCY LANDRY,
AND MCMAHEN

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:2462 and to enact R.S. 3:2466, relative to euthanasia of
3 animals for research or biological supply; to provide for definitions; to require
4 notification to owners surrendering animals; to prohibit animal shelters from
5 euthanizing animals for research purposes only; to provide for the transfer of live
6 animals in certain circumstances; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 3:2462 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 3:2466 is hereby
10 enacted to read as follows:

11 §2462. Definitions

12 As used in this Part, the following words shall have the following meanings
13 ascribed to them:

14 (1) "Animal dealer" means a person who receives payment for the
15 transportation or delivery for transportation of any living or dead animal or who
16 buys, sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of any living or dead animal for
17 research, teaching, exhibition, or biological supply.

18 ~~(1)~~(2) "Animal shelter" means any building, structure, site, enclosure₁ or
19 other facility used or operated for the housing or keeping of any stray, homeless,
20 abandoned₂ or unwanted animals including any facility designated by the parish
21 governing authority; for the keeping or housing of any impounded animals.

1 (2) The statement shall also be included on owner surrender forms in a size
2 and style of font designed to be clearly visible to the owner.

3 B. No animal shelter or other person that accepts animals from the public or
4 takes in stray or unwanted animals shall euthanize an animal for the sole purpose of
5 transferring the carcass to a research facility, biological supply facility, or animal
6 dealer.

7 C. No animal shelter or other person that accepts animals from the public or
8 takes in stray or unwanted animals shall sell a living animal to a research facility,
9 biological supply facility, animal dealer, or other person for the purpose of research
10 or experimentation.

11 D. An animal shelter or other person that accepts animals from the public or
12 takes in stray or unwanted animals may give or transfer a living animal for the
13 purpose of research or instruction only if:

14 (1) Reasonable efforts to place the animal in a suitable environment outside
15 of the shelter have been exhausted.

16 (2) The animal is being given or transferred for one of the following
17 reasons:

18 (a) Instructional purposes, including necessary spay or neuter surgeries.

19 (b) Research as part of a clinical trial using drugs or treatments already
20 approved by the United States Department of Agriculture or United States Food and
21 Drug Administration.

22 (c) Research determined by the Institutional Animal Care and Use
23 Committee to be deemed non-invasive.

24 (3) When possible, the living animal is returned to its originating facility at
25 the conclusion of the research or instruction.

26 (4) Every precaution has been taken to minimize pain to the animal.

27 E. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a research facility from working in
28 collaboration with an animal shelter to investigate problems and provide services to
29 shelter animals.

1 F. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more
2 than one thousand dollars for each separate act of violation.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____