
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

AB 357 (Maienschein) - Animal test methods: alternatives

Version: May 25, 2023

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 14, 2023

Policy Vote: JUD. 11 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Matthew Fleming

Bill Summary: AB 357 would require a manufacturer or contract testing facility using traditional animal test methods to report specified information to the State Department of Public Health (CDPH), and require CDPH to post that information on its website.

Fiscal Impact:

- CDPH reports costs of approximately \$1.2 million from FY 2023-24 through FY 2027-28, with ongoing costs of \$95,000 annually thereafter (General Fund). These costs would cover the Planning: Project Approval Lifecycle process, though the California Department of Technology, which allows for the proper vetting of IT projects; the one-time costs of designing, developing, and implementing the online portal; and annual, ongoing costs for maintenance and operations support.
- The University of California (UC) reports annual, ongoing costs ranging between \$1.5 and \$3 million in for salary and benefits for 1.0 – 2.0 PY at each of the UC's 10 campuses, and one-time IT costs of \$500,000 (General Fund). Actual costs will depend on amount of animal research being done at a particular institution and whether the research qualifies under the medical research exception to AB 357. Research projects are likely to fluctuate year to year and depending on how much animal research is conducted at a particular campus it may not be necessary to have one or more dedicated full time equivalent positions at each campus for research review.

Background: California became the first state in the nation to enact a widespread prohibition on unnecessary testing of consumer products on animals in 2000 when the Legislature enacted SB 2082 (O'Connell, Ch. 476, Stats. 2000). SB 2082 prohibited animal testing if an alternative test was approved by the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods, with certain exceptions for medical research. Since that bill was enacted, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods no longer validates alternatives to animal testing. Since then, California has enacted other reforms dealing with animal testing, including the prohibition on animal testing for the development of animal products and unnecessary toxicological testing on dogs and cats.

Proposed Law:

- Prohibits manufacturers and contract facilities from using traditional animal test methods within this state for which an appropriate alternative test method or strategy

exists, or a waiver has been granted by the agency responsible for regulating the specific product or activity for which the test is being conducted.

- Specifies that, when there is no appropriate alternative test method or strategy available, manufacturers and contract testing facilities must use a traditional animal test method using the fewest number of animals possible and reduce the level of pain, suffering, and stress of an animal used for testing.
- Specifies that these provisions do not prohibit the use of traditional animal test methods to comply with requirements of state or federal agencies.
- Requires, on and after January 1, 2025, a manufacturer or contract testing facility in this state using traditional animal test methods, except for those performed for the purpose of medical research, to report to CDPH the number and species of animals used, the type and number of alternative test methods or strategies used, the number of waivers used, and the purpose of the use of the traditional animal tests, alternative test methods or strategies, and waivers.
- Requires CDPH to develop and maintain a portal on its website to receive the above information and make the information collected publicly available on its internet website.
- Requires CDPH to ensure that information made available to the public does not include personally identifiable information or proprietary information.
- Defines terms for purposes of the bill and makes conforming changes.

Related Legislation:

- SB 879 (Wiener) Ch. 551, Stats. of 2022, prohibited the unnecessary testing of specified substances on dogs and cats when an alternative test method has been scientifically validated and recommended by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods.
- SB 1249 (Galgiani) Ch. 899, Stats. 2018, prohibited the use of animal testing in the development of cosmetic products.

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