

HOUSE BILL 1448

J1

5lr2984

By: **Delegate Cullison**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Animal Testing and Research – Alternative Nonanimal Test Methods**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain research facilities in the State from using a
4 traditional animal test method if an alternative nonanimal test method has received
5 certain approval or the requirement to use a traditional animal test method is
6 waived; requiring certain research facilities to conduct testing using traditional
7 animal test methods in a certain manner; requiring certain research facilities to
8 annually submit a report to the Attorney General regarding the test methods used;
9 requiring the Attorney General to make the reports publicly available; requiring the
10 Attorney General to enforce this Act; and generally relating to the use of alternative
11 nonanimal test methods.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Health – General

14 Section 24–23A–01 through 24–23A–05 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 23A.
15 Alternative Nonanimal Test Methods”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 **SUBTITLE 23A. ALTERNATIVE NONANIMAL TEST METHODS.**

22 **24–23A–01.**

23 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
24 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(B) (1) “ALTERNATIVE NONANIMAL TEST METHOD” MEANS A TEST METHOD THAT:

(I) DOES NOT USE A LIVE VERTEBRATE ANIMAL; AND

(II) PROVIDES INFORMATION OF EQUIVALENT OR BETTER SCIENTIFIC QUALITY AND RELEVANCE COMPARED TO A TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD.

(2) “ALTERNATIVE NONANIMAL TEST METHOD” INCLUDES:

(I) COMPUTATIONAL TOXICOLOGY AND BIOINFORMATICS;

(II) HIGH-THROUGHPUT SCREENING METHODS;

(III) TESTING OF CATEGORIES OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES;

(IV) TIERED TESTING METHODS;

(V) IN VITRO STUDIES; AND

(VI) MICROPHYSIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.

(C) “TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD” MEANS A PROCESS, PROCEDURE, OR EXPERIMENT USING LIVE VERTEBRATE ANIMALS TO:

(1) OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A PRODUCT, INCLUDING:

(I) A CHEMICAL;

(II) AN INGREDIENT;

(III) A DRUG;

(IV) A VACCINE; OR

(V) A PRODUCT FORMULATION; AND

(2) GENERATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE ABILITY OF THE PRODUCT TO PRODUCE A SPECIFIC BIOLOGICAL EFFECT UNDER SPECIFIED CONDITIONS.

24-23A-02.

THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES ONLY TO A RESEARCH FACILITY THAT IS LOCATED IN THE STATE AND REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE FORM 7023, AS DEFINED IN § 24-2301 OF THIS TITLE.

24-23A-03.

(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY WITH RESPECT TO:

(1) ANIMAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED FOR THE PURPOSES OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH TO INVESTIGATE:

(I) THE BIOLOGICAL PROCESS;

(II) CAUSES OF DISEASE; OR

(III) HOW PROCESSES IN LIVING ORGANISMS DEVELOP AND FUNCTION; OR

(2) A TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD USED TO COMPLY WITH:

(I) THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FEDERAL OR STATE AGENCY; OR

(II) A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM A FEDERAL OR STATE AGENCY WHEN THE AGENCY HAS EXPRESSLY CONCLUDED THAT A TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD IS NEEDED TO FULLY ASSESS THE IMPACT ON THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF CONSUMERS.

(B) A RESEARCH FACILITY MAY NOT USE A TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD IF:

(1) AN ALTERNATIVE NONANIMAL TEST METHOD HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL OR STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING THE SPECIFIC PRODUCT OR ACTIVITY BEING TESTED; OR

(2) THE FEDERAL OR STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING THE SPECIFIC PRODUCT OR ACTIVITY BEING TESTED HAS MADE AVAILABLE OR GRANTED A WAIVER FROM USING A TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD.

(C) IF ALLOWED TO USE A TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD, A RESEARCH FACILITY SHALL:

(1) USE THE FEWEST NUMBER OF ANIMALS POSSIBLE; AND

(2) REDUCE THE LEVEL OF PAIN, SUFFERING, AND STRESS OF THE ANIMALS USED FOR TESTING.

24-23A-04.

(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 20 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, EACH RESEARCH FACILITY SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WITH INFORMATION RELATED TO THE TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHODS AND ALTERNATIVE NONANIMAL TEST METHODS USED BY THE RESEARCH FACILITY IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR.

(2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) IF THE RESEARCH FACILITY USED TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHODS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

1. A DESCRIPTION OF EACH TRADITIONAL ANIMAL TEST METHOD USED AND THE REASON THE TEST METHOD WAS REQUIRED; AND

2. THE NUMBER AND SPECIES OF ANIMAL USED; AND

(II) IF THE RESEARCH FACILITY USED ALTERNATIVE NONANIMAL TEST METHODS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

1. THE TYPES AND NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE NONANIMAL TEST METHODS USED; AND

2. THE NUMBER OF WAIVERS RECEIVED BY THE RESEARCH FACILITY UNDER § 24-23A-03 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 20 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL MAKE THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.

24-23A-05.

(A) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ENFORCE THIS SUBTITLE.

1 **(B) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY PETITION THE CIRCUIT COURT TO:**

2 **(1) ISSUE AN ORDER RESTRAINING OR ENJOINING A VIOLATION OF**
3 **THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

4 **(2) GRANT ANY OTHER RELIEF THAT THE COURT DETERMINES IS**
5 **NECESSARY.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 January 1, 2026.