

#### 119TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3349

To amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, and for other purposes.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 13, 2025

Mr. Johnson of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. Davis of North Carolina, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Wittman, and Ms. McCollum) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

## A BILL

To amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, 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.
- This Act may be cited as the "Healthy Dog Importa-
- 5 tion Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.
- 7 (a) In General.—The Animal Health Protection
- 8 Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
- 9 section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

### 1 "SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.

2	"(a) Definitions.—In this section:
3	"(1) Compensation.—The term 'compensa-
4	tion' means any act, consideration, or thing of value
5	received by a person directly, including cash or
6	noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive
7	or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of serv-
8	ices, or maintaining a license issued under any local,
9	State, or Federal Government authority.
10	"(2) Importer.—The term 'importer' means
11	any person who transports or causes the transpor-
12	tation of a dog into the United States from a foreign
13	country.
14	"(3) Import transporter.—The term 'import
15	transporter' means any person or entity that—
16	"(A) receives an imported dog from any
17	importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, op-
18	erator of an auction sale, or department, agen-
19	cy, or instrumentality of the United States or
20	of any State or local government; and
21	"(B) receives compensation for moving
22	such dog in commerce.
23	"(4) Transfer.—The term 'transfer' means a
24	change of ownership or control of an imported dog
25	to another person, including by sale, adoption, ex-
26	change, or donation.

1	"(b) Requirements.—
2	"(1) In general.—Except as provided in para-
3	graph (2), no person shall import a dog into the
4	United States unless prior to transport to the
5	United States, the Secretary receives electronic doc-
6	umentation necessary, as determined by the Sec-
7	retary, to demonstrate that the dog—
8	"(A) is in good health;
9	"(B) has received all necessary vaccina-
10	tions and internal and external parasite treat-
11	ment, and demonstrated negative test results
12	as required by the Secretary and evidenced by
13	a certificate that—
14	"(i) is issued by a licensed veteri-
15	narian accredited by a competent veteri-
16	nary authority recognized by the Secretary
17	and
18	"(ii) is endorsed by that authority in
19	a manner representing that the veteri-
20	narian issuing the certificate was author-
21	ized to do so;
22	"(C) is officially identified by a permanent
23	method approved by the Secretary; and
24	"(D) in the case that the dog is intended
25	for transfer

1	"(i) is at least 6 months old; and
2	"(ii) is accompanied by an import per-
3	mit issued by the Secretary under this Act.
4	"(2) Exceptions.—The Secretary, by regula-
5	tion, shall provide an exception to any requirement
6	under this Act in any case in which a dog is im-
7	ported for purposes of transfer—
8	"(A) as a personal pet of United States or-
9	igin returning to the United States;
10	"(B) as a United States military working
11	dog or contracted working dog supporting a
12	military mission or tasking;
13	"(C) for research purposes;
14	"(D) for veterinary treatment which is
15	paid for by the importer, subject to the condi-
16	tion that the dog—
17	"(i) is taken directly to a veterinary
18	facility for treatment with appropriate
19	quarantine until the dog meets the criteria
20	described in paragraph (1); and
21	"(ii) is then exported to its country of
22	origin; or
23	"(E) in the case of a dog that is less than
24	6 months old, for lawful importation into the
25	State of Hawaii from the British Isles. Aus-

1	tralia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance
2	with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and
3	the other requirements of this section, if the
4	dog is not transported out of the State of Ha-
5	waii for transfer at less than 6 months of age.
6	"(c) Implementation and Regulations.—Not
7	later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the
8	Healthy Dog Importation Act, the Secretary of Agri-
9	culture, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and
10	Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Sec-
11	retary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Trans-
12	portation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Sec-
13	retary of Agriculture determines necessary to implement
14	and enforce this section, including regulations—
15	"(1) to facilitate electronic submission and
16	interagency sharing of all documentation required
17	prior to the importation of a dog into the United
18	States under subsection (b)(1);
19	"(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival
20	verification processes for imported dogs;
21	"(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the
22	United States of any dog attempted to be imported
23	into the United States in violation of subsection
24	(b)(1);

1 "(4) to provide that each importer, import 2 transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiv-3 ing a certificate of veterinary inspection required 4 under this section shall submit a copy of the certifi-5 cate to the Secretary, who shall, upon receipt, record 6 and maintain the information in a centralized data-7 base and, upon request by a State veterinarian, 8 share the information with such State veterinarian 9 within 3 days;

- "(5) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to annually report aggregated data submitted under paragraph (4), including information on country of origin and purpose of import; and
- "(6) to determine and establish such fees for the verification of documentation and issuance of permits required under subsection (b)(1) as may be necessary to fund the implementation and enforcement of this section.
- "(d) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in sub-20 section (c)(6) shall be construed as limiting the availability 21 of funding made available under section 10417 to carry 22 out this section.
- 23 "(e) Enforcement.—

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1	"(1) Authority.—The Secretary shall have
2	the authority granted under section 10414 to en-
3	force this section.
4	"(2) Penalties.—An importer or import
5	transporter that fails to comply with this section
6	shall—
7	"(A) be subject to penalties under section
8	10414; and
9	"(B) provide, as the Secretary may deter-
10	mine, at the expense of the importer or import
11	transporter, for—
12	"(i) the care (including appropriate
13	veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine,
14	and removal from the United States of
15	each applicable dog; and
16	"(ii) the return of each applicable dog
17	to its place of export, with due care for the
18	welfare of each applicable dog.".
19	(b) Transition Period.—
20	(1) In general.—During the transition pe-
21	riod, regulations promulgated under section 18 of
22	the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in ef-
23	fect on the day before the date of enactment of this
24	Act) relating to the importation of live dogs shall
25	continue to apply to the extent that such regulations

- do not conflict with section 10404A of the Animal
- 2 Health Protection Act (as inserted by subsection
- (a)).
- 4 (2) Transition Period Defined.—In this
- 5 subsection, the term "transition period" means the
- 6 period beginning on the date of enactment of this
- 7 Act and ending on the date on which final regula-
- 8 tions are promulgated under such section 10404A.
- 9 (c) Conforming Amendment.—Section 18 of the
- 10 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

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