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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5212**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Palumbo, Wilson, L., Rolfes, Mullet, Wilson, C., Hunt, and Kuderer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to adoption of dogs and cats used for science or  
2 research purposes; adding a new section to chapter 18.92 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.92  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A higher education facility that receives public money,  
8 including tax exempt status, or a facility that provides research in  
9 collaboration with a higher education facility, that utilizes dogs or  
10 cats for scientific, educational, or research purposes, upon  
11 conclusion of a dog or cat's use for scientific, educational, or  
12 research purposes shall:

13 (a) Have the facility's attending veterinarian or designee assess  
14 the health of the dog or cat and determine if the dog or cat is  
15 suitable for adoption, consistent with guidelines promulgated by the  
16 American veterinary medical association; and

17 (b) Make reasonable efforts to offer the dog or cat for adoption,  
18 when the dog or cat is deemed suitable for adoption, through the  
19 facility's own adoption program or through a licensed animal adoption  
20 organization. A facility that offers dogs or cats for adoption to a

1 licensed animal adoption organization under this section may enter  
2 into an agreement to facilitate adoptions.

3 (2) For the purposes of this section, a "licensed animal adoption  
4 organization" is an organization qualified under section 501(c)(3) of  
5 the internal revenue code and incorporated for the purpose of finding  
6 permanent adoptive homes for animals and licensed by the Washington  
7 state department of health.

8 (3) Nothing in this section shall:

9 (a) Create a duty upon a licensed animal adoption organization to  
10 accept a dog or cat offered for adoption by a research facility; or

11 (b) Prohibit a facility from completing scientific research or  
12 educational use prior to making a suitability for adoption  
13 determination.

14 (4) A research facility that provides a dog or cat for adoption  
15 pursuant to this section is immune from any civil liability for acts  
16 or omissions relating to the adoption of a dog or cat pursuant to  
17 subsection (1) of this section, other than acts constituting willful  
18 or wanton misconduct.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the  
20 homes for animal heroes act.

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