

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6950

To require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2024

Mr. YAKYM (for himself and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Working Dog Health
5 and Welfare Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKING DOG REC-**
2 **COMMENDATIONS.**

3 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

4 (1) **AGENCY.**—

5 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “agency” has
6 the meaning given the term in section 551 of
7 title 5, United States Code.

8 (B) **INCLUSIONS.**—Notwithstanding sub-
9 paragraphs (A) through (D) of section 551(1)
10 of title 5, United States Code, the term “agen-
11 cy” includes—

12 (i) the Congress;

13 (ii) the courts of the United States;

14 (iii) the governments of the territories
15 or possessions of the United States; and

16 (iv) the government of the District of
17 Columbia.

18 (2) **WORKING DOG.**—The term “working dog”
19 means a dog that has received specialized training in
20 order to perform a particular productive function.

21 (3) **WORKING DOG PROGRAM.**—The term
22 “working dog program” means a program, the oper-
23 ations of which include the employment of working
24 dogs.

25 (4) **WORKING DOG RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The
26 term “working dog recommendations” means the

1 recommendations included in the report of the Gov-
2 ernment Accountability Office entitled “Working
3 Dogs: Federal Agencies Need to Better Address
4 Health and Welfare”, as published in October 2022.

5 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of
8 each agency that manages a working dog program
9 shall implement the working dog recommendations.

10 (2) CONTRACTORS.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, a contractor
12 that manages a working dog program on behalf of
13 an agency shall implement the working dog rec-
14 ommendations.

15 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the
16 date on which the head of an agency or a contractor
17 that manages a working dog program on behalf of
18 a covered agency implements working dog rec-
19 ommendations under this subsection, the head of the
20 agency shall submit to the Committee on Homeland
21 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate
22 and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability
23 of the House of Representatives a report on the ex-
24 plicit steps the agency or contractor has taken to
25 complete the implementation.

1 (c) FOREIGN PARTNERS.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 State shall take appropriate steps to ensure that donations
4 of working dogs provided to foreign partners by the De-
5 partment of State are executed and monitored according
6 to the working dog recommendations.

7 (d) NEW WORKING DOG PROGRAMS.—With respect
8 to an agency that establishes a working dog program, or
9 enters into a contract for the establishment of a working
10 dog program, after the date of enactment of this Act, the
11 head of the agency shall ensure that the working dog pro-
12 gram implements the working dog recommendations.

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