

Public Law 117–212  
117th Congress

An Act

To require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes.

Oct. 17, 2022  
[S. 4205]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Planning for Animal Wellness Act” or the “PAW Act”.

Planning for  
Animal Wellness  
Act.  
42 USC 5196  
note.

**SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP GUIDELINES.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term “working group” means the advisory working group established under subsection (b).

(b) **WORKING GROUP.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish an advisory working group.

Deadline.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The working group shall consist of—

(1) not less than 2 representatives of State governments with experience in animal emergency management;

(2) not less than 2 representatives of local governments with experience in animal emergency management;

(3) not less than 2 representatives from academia;

(4) not less than 2 veterinary experts;

(5) not less than 2 representatives from nonprofit organizations working to address the needs of households pets and service animals in emergencies or disasters;

(6) representatives from the Federal Animal Emergency Management Working Group; and

(7) any other members determined necessary by the Administrator.

(d) **DUTIES.**—The working group shall—

(1) encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities working to address the needs of household pets, service and assistance animals, and captive animals, as appropriate, in emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery; and

(2) review best practices and Federal guidance, as of the date of enactment of this Act, on congregate and noncongregate sheltering and evacuation planning relating to the needs of household pets, service and assistance animals, and captive

animals, as appropriate, in emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Deadline. (e) NO COMPENSATION.—The members of the working group shall serve on the working group on a voluntary basis.

(f) GUIDANCE DETERMINATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall determine whether the best practices and Federal guidance described in subsection (d)(2) are sufficient.

Deadline. Consultation. Determination. Publication. (g) NEW GUIDANCE.—Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, if the Administrator, in consultation with the working group, determines that the best practices and Federal guidance described in subsection (d)(2) are insufficient, the Administrator, in consultation with the working group, shall publish updated Federal guidance.

(h) SUNSET.—

Determination. (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the working group shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may extend the date described in paragraph (1) if the Administrator determines an extension is appropriate.

Approved October 17, 2022.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 4205:

SENATE REPORTS: No. 117-140 (Comm. on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 168 (2022):

Aug. 6, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 13, considered in House.

Sept. 14, prior proceedings vacated; considered and passed House.

