

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2414

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2023

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKING DOG REC-**
7 **COMMENDATIONS.**

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

1 (1) AGENCY.—

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

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

9 (i) the Congress;

10 (ii) the courts of the United States;

11 (iii) the governments of the territories
12 or possessions of the United States; and

13 (iv) the government of the District of
14 Columbia.

15 (2) WORKING DOG.—The term “working dog”
16 means a dog that has received specialized training in
17 order to perform a particular productive function.

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

22 (4) WORKING DOG RECOMMENDATIONS.—The
23 term “working dog recommendations” means the
24 recommendations included in the report of the Gov-
25 ernment Accountability Office entitled “Working

1 Dogs: Federal Agencies Need to Better Address
2 Health and Welfare”, as published in October 2022.

3 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

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

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

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

24 (c) FOREIGN PARTNERS.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

1 State shall take appropriate steps to ensure that donations
2 of working dogs provided to foreign partners by the De-
3 partment of State are executed and monitored according
4 to the working dog recommendations.

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

○