A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the adoption of retired research
animals; creating s. 828.52, F.S.; providing
definitions; requiring specified research facilities
to offer retired research animals for adoption;
providing requirements for such adoption; providing
immunity from civil liability for such facilities;
providing applicability; directing the Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 828.52, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

828.52 Adoption of research animals.—
(1) As used in this section, the term:
(a) "Animal rescue organization" means a nonprofit
charitable organization established primarily to rescue animals
and find adoptive homes for the animals.
(b) "Animal shelter" means a facility operated by a
nonprofit charitable organization established primarily to
shelter and care for stray, homeless, abandoned, or unwanted
animals and find adoptive homes for the animals.
(c) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services.

(d) "Research facility" means a facility as defined in the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. s. 2132, that is licensed by or registered with the United States Department of Agriculture to conduct experiments on cats or dogs for education, research, science, or testing purposes.

(e) "Retired animal" means a cat or dog used by a research facility in experiments conducted for education, research, science, or testing purposes that is no longer needed for such purposes.

(2)(a) A research facility or its authorized employee or an authorized student of an institution of higher education associated with the research facility shall offer a retired animal for adoption through an animal rescue organization or animal shelter or to an individual through an arrangement between the facility and the individual.

(b) A research facility may not offer a retired animal for adoption through an animal rescue organization or animal shelter unless the facility has a written agreement with the organization or shelter for the transfer of the facility's retired animals to the organization or shelter.

(c) A research facility that offers a retired animal for adoption through an animal rescue organization or animal shelter or to an individual in good faith and in compliance with this section and rules adopted pursuant to this section is held

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
harmless from civil liability for the transfer of the retired animal to the organization, shelter, or individual or for the adoption of the retired animal by an individual through the organization or shelter.

(3) This section does not apply to a retired animal with a substantial medical condition that prevents the animal from successfully integrating into an adoptive home.

(4) The department shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.