

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3263

To establish a Chief Veterinary Officer in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2010

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

A BILL

To establish a Chief Veterinary Officer in the Department of Homeland Security, 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. CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT**
4 **OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
6 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by
7 adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 317. CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department a
3 Chief Veterinary Officer, who shall be appointed by the
4 Secretary.

5 “(b) REPORTING RELATIONSHIP.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Veterinary Offi-
7 cer shall report directly to the Chief Medical Officer.

8 “(2) EXCEPTION.—If an individual other than
9 the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs is serving
10 as the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Veterinary
11 Officer shall report directly to the Assistant Sec-
12 retary for Health Affairs.

13 “(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The individual appointed as
14 Chief Veterinary Officer shall be a veterinarian who pos-
15 sesses—

16 “(1) a demonstrated ability in and knowledge of
17 veterinary public health and emergency prepared-
18 ness; and

19 “(2) other professional experience, as deter-
20 mined by the Secretary, including experience in agri-
21 culture, food defense, and disaster medicine.

22 “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Veterinary Offi-
23 cer shall—

24 “(1) be the head of the division of the Depart-
25 ment with primary responsibility for veterinary
26 issues, food defense, and agriculture security; and

1 “(2) have primary responsibility within the De-
2 partment for responsibilities relating to veterinary
3 medicine and veterinary public health, including—

4 “(A) serving as the principal authority in
5 the Department responsible for advising the
6 Secretary, in coordination with the Assistant
7 Secretary for Health Affairs, on veterinary pub-
8 lic health, food defense, and agricultural secu-
9 rity issues;

10 “(B) providing guidance for the health and
11 welfare of the working animals of the Depart-
12 ment, including those used to enhance transpor-
13 tation, border, and maritime security, and for
14 other purposes;

15 “(C) leading the policy initiatives of the
16 Department relating to—

17 “(i) food, animal, and agricultural in-
18 cidents, and the impact of such incidents
19 on animal and public health; and

20 “(ii) overall domestic preparedness for
21 and collective response to agricultural ter-
22 rorism;

23 “(D) serving as the principal point of con-
24 tact in the Office of Health Affairs for—

1 “(i) all veterinary preparedness and
2 response research and development; and

3 “(ii) sharing homeland security veteri-
4 nary medical information with Department
5 officials, including all components with vet-
6 erinary, food, or agricultural interests;

7 “(E) serving as the principal point of con-
8 tact within the Department with respect to vet-
9 erinary homeland security issues for—

10 “(i) the Department of Agriculture,
11 the Department of Defense, the Depart-
12 ment of Health and Human Services, and
13 other Federal departments and agencies;
14 and

15 “(ii) State, local, and tribal govern-
16 ments, the veterinary community, and
17 other entities within and outside the De-
18 partment; and

19 “(F) performing such other duties relating
20 to the responsibilities of the Chief Veterinary
21 Officer as the Secretary may require.

22 “(e) ADVANCE NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION RE-
23 QUIRED.—Not later than 180 days before carrying out
24 any reorganization within the Department that would af-
25 fect any responsibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the

1 Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional
2 committees a report on the proposed reorganization.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
4 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the
5 end of the items relating to title III the following:

“Sec. 317. Chief Veterinary Officer.”.

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