

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9675

To delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces stationed in a foreign country and for individuals with service animals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. ARMSTRONG (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces stationed in a foreign country and for individuals with service animals, 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 “Homeward Bound
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DELAYED APPLICATION OF RULE RELATING TO IM-**
2 **PORTING DOGS FOR MEMBERS OF THE**
3 **ARMED FORCES, DIPLOMATS SERVING IN A**
4 **FOREIGN COUNTRY, AND INDIVIDUALS WITH**
5 **SERVICE ANIMALS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The rule entitled “Control of
7 Communicable Diseases; Foreign Quarantine: Importation
8 of Dogs and Cats” published by the Department of Health
9 and Human Services in the Federal Register on May 13,
10 2024, (89 Fed. Reg. 41726 et seq.) shall not be applied
11 until the date that is 18 months after the date of the en-
12 actment of this Act with respect to—

13 (1) any covered individual seeking to import a
14 dog from a low-risk country for rabies (as defined by
15 the Secretary); and

16 (2) any individual seeking to import a service
17 animal from such a low-risk country.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered in-
21 dividual” means—

22 (i) a member of the Armed Forces
23 who is stationed in a foreign country; and

24 (ii) any individual serving as per-
25 sonnel at a United States diplomatic or
26 consular post.

1 (B) INCLUSION.—Such term includes a
2 family member stationed in the same location
3 as the individual described in clause (i) or (ii)
4 of subparagraph (A).

5 (2) SERVICE ANIMAL.—The term “service ani-
6 mal” has the meaning given such term in part 37.3
7 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or suc-
8 cessor regulations).

9 **SEC. 3. REVISING RULE RELATING TO IMPORTING DOGS.**

10 Not later than 10 days after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
12 Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention, shall revise part 71 of
14 title 42, Code of Federal Regulations—

15 (1) to allow individuals to import into the
16 United States, at any port of entry, from a low-risk
17 country for rabies (as defined by the Secretary),
18 dogs of any age; and

19 (2) in the case of an individual seeking to im-
20 port a dog from such a country that was born before
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, to not require
22 such dog to be microchipped as a condition on that
23 importation.

1 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING AUTHORITY**
2 **OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

3 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting
4 the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to enforce
5 any provision of law over which the Secretary of Agri-
6 culture has jurisdiction.

○