

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5113

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To delay the application of a certain rule for members of the Armed Forces and diplomats 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 FOR MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE ARMED FORCES, DIPLOMATS SERVING**
3 **IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, AND INDIVIDUALS**
4 **WITH SERVICE ANIMALS.**

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

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

15 (2) any individual seeking to import a service
16 animal from such a country.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—

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

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

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

1 (B) INCLUSION OF FAMILY MEMBERS.—

2 The term “covered individual” includes a family
3 member of an individual described in clause (i)
4 or (ii) of subparagraph (A) stationed in the
5 same location as the individual.

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

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

11 Not later than 10 days after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for
14 Disease Control and Prevention, shall revise part 71 of
15 title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, to allow an indi-
16 vidual to import into the United States, at any port of
17 entry, from a low-risk country for rabies (as defined by
18 the Secretary)—

19 (1) a dog of any age; or

20 (2) a dog born before the date of the enactment
21 of this Act that is not microchipped.

22 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING AUTHORITY**
23 **OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

24 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting
25 the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to enforce

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- 1 any provision of law over which the Secretary of Agri-
- 2 culture has jurisdiction.

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