

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of a second emergency with respect to the need to amend section 9 the Animal Control Act of 1979 to clarify that animals at educational institutions are permitted for educational and instructional purposes.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2014".

Sec. 2. (a) There is an immediate need to clarify section 9(h) of the Animal Control Act of 1979, effective October 18, 1979 (D.C. Law 3-30; D.C. Official Code § 8-1808(h)), to make clear that animals at educational institutions are permitted for educational and instructional purposes.

(b) The Department of Health has previously notified schools across the District that they must remove animals – such as geckos, frogs, toads, tadpoles, and other species historically used for instructional purposes but not specifically cited in section 9 of the Animal Control Act of 1979 – or the District will seize and destroy them.

(c) This interpretation has caused concern among educators and school administrators and potentially disrupts the teaching and learning opportunities for students.

(d) This second emergency action will prevent classroom and instructional animals from being removed and ensure that the schools can continue teaching sciences and biology with living creatures that are treated and maintained humanely and safely.

(e) This second emergency action is necessary to prevent a gap in the law as the temporary legislation, the Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2014, signed by the Mayor on March 14, 2014, (D.C. Act 20-300; 61 DCR 2572) expires December 29, 2014. The permanent measure will not be marked up until next session.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Second Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2014 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.