



# BILL ESSAYLI

## 63RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

### Assembly Bill 595 – Animal Shelters

#### SUMMARY

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AB 595 would require all animal shelters to provide public notice on their website at least 72 hours before euthanizing an “adoptable” dog or cat.

#### BACKGROUND

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Animal shelters across the state are facing an overcrowding crisis. Oftentimes shelters are faced with no other choice but to euthanize animals that do not have serious behavioral or medical issues. In 2021, approximately 800,000 dogs and cats were euthanized in the U.S. with California, Texas, Alabama, North Carolina, and Florida accounting for half.

#### ISSUE

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Many shelters do an excellent job of notifying the public of animals that are in need of adoption by publishing a list on their website. For example, Riverside County Department of

Animal Services maintains a “red status” list found at the following link: <https://www.rcdas.org/index.php/listof-animals-that-need-rescue>.

Unfortunately, not all do this and many people are not aware of the animals that urgently need to be adopted or risk being euthanized. Last year, a puppy named Bowie was tragically euthanized even though he was selected for adoption by a rescue. AB 595 would have saved Bowie’s life; with 72-hours public notice, the public would have been able to step in and the rescue would have safely taken Bowie.

#### THE BILL

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This bill would require that both public and private animal shelters provide public notice via their website at least 72 hours before euthanizing an adoptable dog or cat. This bill would also require the Department of Food and Agriculture to conduct a study on the overcrowding of California’s animal shelters, the ways in which the state might address animal shelter overcrowding, and the feasibility of a statewide database of adoptable dogs or cats. This bill would require the

department to, on or before January 1, 2026, submit a report on its study findings to the Legislature

## **SUPPORT**

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List of support pending confirmation

## **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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