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New Pet Food Proposal Introduced in US House



On February 15, a bipartisan group of five Congressional Representatives introduced the [Pet Food Uniform Regulatory Reform Act of 2024](#) (the PURR Act) in the U.S. House.

Currently, the FDA's regulation of pet foods is similar to that of other animal foods. The federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) requires that all animal foods are safe to eat, produced under sanitary conditions, contain no harmful substances, and are truthfully labeled. The current regulatory framework around pet food manufacture and sale is a two-tiered system, with both federal and state requirements addressing issues ranging from ingredient approvals to labeling requirements.

The proposed PURR Act establishes new federal rules for the regulation of pet food for "companion animals," consisting exclusively of domestic dogs and cats. In [announcing the bill](#), the legislation's supporters argued it would "replace the current inefficient patchwork approach between states and the federal government with consistent national standards that are predictable, clearly defined, and encourage innovation and speed to market."

The proposed bill would amend the FD&C Act to, among other things, permit the use of certain marketing terms on pet food products without premarket approval by the FDA so long as they are truthful and not misleading. Popular marketing terms in this context include "hairball control," "tartar control," "human-grade," and "natural." The legislation would also require the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine to perform science-based reviews of pet food ingredient submissions and provide annual reports to Congress on these reviews, as well as initial guidance and regulations promulgated pursuant to the PURR Act. To address perceived issues with the two-tiered regulatory system, the bill would preempt any state from enacting requirements "relating to the marketing or labeling of pet food."

The House of Representatives referred the bill to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KY) sponsored the bill, along with four bipartisan cosponsors: Reps. Steve Womack (R-AR),

Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Sharice Davids (D-KS), and Josh Harder (D-CA). The text of the bill is available [here](#).

Authors

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