

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide protections for good faith donations of pet food and supplies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To provide protections for good faith donations of pet food
and supplies.

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 “Bring Animals Relief
5 and Kibble Act of 2025” or the “BARK Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROTECTIONS FOR GOOD FAITH DONATIONS OF**
7 **PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) APPARENTLY FIT PET-RELATED PROD-
10 UCT.—The term “apparently fit pet-related product”

1 means any pet food or pet supply that meets all
2 quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal,
3 State, and local laws and regulations even though
4 the product may not be readily marketable due to
5 appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, surplus, or
6 other condition.

7 (2) BILL EMERSON GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD DO-
8 NATION ACT TERMS.—The terms “donate”, “gross
9 negligence”, “intentional misconduct”, “nonprofit
10 organization”, and “person” have the meanings
11 given those terms in subsection (b) of the Bill Emer-
12 son Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (42 U.S.C.
13 1791(b)).

14 (3) EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL.—The term
15 “emotional support animal” means an animal that—

16 (A) is covered by the exclusions in section
17 5.303 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations
18 (or successor regulation); and

19 (B) is not a service animal.

20 (4) PET.—The term “pet” means a domes-
21 ticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent, fish,
22 turtle, or other animal, that is kept for pleasure
23 rather than for commercial purposes.

24 (5) PET FOOD.—The term “pet food” means
25 any raw, cooked, processed, or prepared edible sub-

1 stance, ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended
2 for use in whole or in part for consumption by a
3 qualified animal.

4 (6) PET SUPPLY.—The term “pet supply”
5 means tangible personal property used for a quali-
6 fied animal, including pet carriers, crates, kennels,
7 houses, cages, clothing, bedding, toys, collars,
8 leashes, leads, tie-outs, feeders, bowls, dishes, pet
9 gates, or pet doors.

10 (7) QUALIFIED ANIMAL.—The term “qualified
11 animal” means—

12 (A) a pet;

13 (B) an emotional support animal; and

14 (C) a service animal.

15 (8) SERVICE ANIMAL.—The term “service ani-
16 mal” has the meaning given the term in section
17 36.104 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or
18 successor regulation).

19 (b) LIABILITY.—

20 (1) PERSONS.—A person shall not be subject to
21 civil or criminal liability arising from the nature,
22 age, packaging, or condition of an apparently fit pet-
23 related product that the person donates in good
24 faith to a State or unit of local government or a

1 nonprofit organization for ultimate distribution to
2 qualified animals.

3 (2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—A nonprofit
4 organization shall not be subject to civil or criminal
5 liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or
6 condition of an apparently fit pet-related product
7 that the nonprofit organization received as a dona-
8 tion from a person in good faith for ultimate dis-
9 tribution to qualified animals.

10 (3) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—A
11 State or unit of local government shall not be sub-
12 ject to liability arising from the nature, age, pack-
13 aging, or condition of an apparently fit pet-related
14 product that the State or unit of local government
15 received as a donation from a person in good faith
16 for ultimate distribution to qualified animals.

17 (4) WAIVER NOT APPLICABLE TO GROSS NEG-
18 LIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT.—Para-
19 graphs (1), (2), and (3) shall not apply to an injury
20 to, or the death of, an ultimate user or recipient of
21 an apparently fit pet-related product that results
22 from an act or omission of the person, nonprofit or-
23 ganization, or State or unit of local government, as
24 applicable, constituting gross negligence or inten-
25 tional misconduct.

1 (c) PARTIAL COMPLIANCE.—If a person donates, in
2 good faith, pet food or pet supplies that do not meet all
3 quality and labeling standards imposed by Federal, State,
4 and local laws and regulations, that person shall not be
5 subject to civil or criminal liability in accordance with this
6 section if the State or unit of local government or non-
7 profit organization to which the food or supplies are do-
8 nated—

9 (1) is informed by that person of the distressed
10 or defective condition of the pet food or pet supplies;

11 (2) agrees to recondition the pet food or pet
12 supplies to comply with applicable quality and label-
13 ing standards prior to distribution; and

14 (3) is knowledgeable of the applicable quality
15 and labeling standards to properly recondition the
16 pet food or pet supplies.

17 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
18 tion shall—

19 (1) create any liability; or

20 (2) supercede any State or local health regula-
21 tions.