



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments

July 21 – 24, 2024

### Resolution on New CDC Requirements for Dogs Entering the U.S. from Canada

- WHEREAS,** the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is implementing the following new requirements for dogs entering the U.S. from abroad; dogs must be at least 6 months of age, have a universally readable microchip, appear healthy upon arrival, and have a CDC Dog Import Form receipt; and
- WHEREAS,** these requirements are scheduled to take effect on August 1, 2024; and
- WHEREAS,** these requirements were first announced by the CDC on May 8, 2024, less than three months before the proposed implementation date; and
- WHEREAS,** this amount of time is not enough to ensure full consultation with Canada and the proper education of travelers; and
- WHEREAS,** these requirements are intended to prevent dog-maintained rabies virus variant (DMRVV), also known as dog rabies, from entering the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** Canada shares the same rabies free status as the U.S. and Canada also has measures in place to address the risk of dog rabies from off-shore; and
- WHEREAS,** almost 400,000 individuals cross the northern border every day, many with dogs as family pets, assistance dogs, or military or other security service dogs; and
- WHEREAS,** this will be particularly challenging for truck drivers (approximately 25% of Canadian truckers travel with a dog); and
- WHEREAS,** individuals who rely on assistance dogs will be adversely affected as the requirements will add unnecessary stress and complications for individuals who depend on their dogs for daily activities; and
- WHEREAS,** the CDC form is currently not accessible for those with visual impairments, making it challenging for travelers with service dogs to be able to comply; and

*Adopted this 24th day of July, 2024 at the 78<sup>th</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio*

- WHEREAS,** as learned during COVID-19, completing electronic forms while attempting to cross the land border can be challenging from a technical perspective (limited wi-fi at land border crossings), and challenging for those without smart phones; and
- WHEREAS,** a binational and bipartisan group of U.S. Congresspeople, Canadian Members of Parliament, the Canadian Minister of Health, and others have called for an implementation delay or permanent exemption; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** the MLC requests that the CDC implement an 18-month delay to this rule at the Canadian land borders; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** the MLC requests that the CDC consider a permanent exemption of these new requirements for those entering the U.S. from Canada; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

*Adopted this 24th day of July, 2024 at the 78<sup>th</sup> MLC Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio*