

Veterinary Training Program; HB 2605

HB 2605 expands and clarifies the requirements for the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (Program) at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine (KSU CVM) and creates an advisory committee to oversee the Program.

Advisory Committee

The bill creates an advisory committee to help select students, determine the needs of the Program, and provide input to the KSU CVM. The advisory committee will consist of members including:

- Two representatives from the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA);
 - Including one member of the KVMA's Executive Committee, and
 - One member who has received the scholarship under the Program;
- The Animal Health Commissioner;
- Two members appointed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA); and
- Two representatives from the KSU CVM.

Changes to the Program

Current law provides each student enters the Program with a loan of \$20,000 per year. The bill changes the loan amount to an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per year. The bill also allows veterinary students who are past their first year to enter into the Program.

For each person signing an agreement to enter the Program, the bill changes the requirements for engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine after graduation. The student could engage in either of the following:

- Full-time practice of veterinary medicine in any Kansas county with a population not exceeding 40,000 people (increased from 35,000 people); or
- Full-time practice of veterinary medicine in a registered veterinary premise under a licensed veterinarian, if food animal patients make up at least 50 percent of such veterinarian's practice.

The bill also makes clarifying amendments regarding program agreements with veterinary students who have met the requirements of the bill.

Continuation of Agreement

The bill allows a person engaged in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in accordance with a program agreement to continue practice in a county that no longer meets the county population requirement, provided the person is practicing in a registered veterinary premises where food animal patients make up at least 50 percent of the practice.

Definitions

The bill adds definitions for “animal,” “advisory committee,” and “food animal.”