

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 3196

By: Newton

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to professions and occupations; amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 698.33, which relates to the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act; modifying veterinary training program for rural Oklahoma; updating references; prioritizing students currently enrolled at the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine; modifying maximum assistance amount; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 698.33, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 698.33 A. There is hereby established the veterinary
4 training program for rural Oklahoma to be administered by the
5 Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Medicine Authority
6 ~~Health Sciences~~. The program shall be developed and implemented in
7 order to provide encouragement, opportunities and incentives for
8 persons pursuing a veterinary medicine degree at Oklahoma State
9 University to locate their veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma
10 communities, and receive specialized training targeted to meet the
11 needs of livestock producers in rural Oklahoma communities.

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13 B. ~~Subject to available funds, each~~ Each year the ~~Veterinary~~
14 ~~Center~~ Authority may enter into program agreements with ~~up to three~~
15 ~~first-year~~ veterinary students or currently practicing large animal
16 veterinarians with qualifying school loans, as determined by the
17 ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority. Preference shall be given to those
18 students and ~~large animal~~ veterinarians who are focused on large
19 animal veterinary medicine, who are Oklahoma residents and who agree
20 to serve in a community as described in paragraph 3 of subsection D
21 of this section, which is determined by the ~~Veterinary Center~~
22 Authority to be an underserved area for the practice of veterinary
23 medicine. Allocation shall be prioritized to eligible students

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1 currently enrolled at the Oklahoma State University College of
2 Veterinary Medicine.

3 C. ~~Subject to available funds, each~~ Each student or large
4 animal veterinarian entering into a program agreement under this
5 section shall receive assistance in an amount not to exceed ~~Twenty~~
6 ~~Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)~~ Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars
7 (\$25,000.00) per year for not more than four (4) years for tuition,
8 books, supplies and other school expenses, and travel and training
9 expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary medicine
10 degree. Upon satisfaction of all commitments under the provisions
11 of the agreement and the provisions of this section, the financial
12 obligations pursuant to this section shall be deemed satisfied and
13 forgiven.

14 D. Each program agreement shall require that the person
15 receiving the assistance:
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17 1. Complete the veterinary medicine degree program at the
18 ~~Veterinary Center~~ Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary
19 Medicine;

20 2. Complete all requirements in public health, livestock
21 biosecurity, foreign animal disease diagnosis, regulatory veterinary
22 medicine and zoonotic disease, and an externship and mentoring
23 requirement with a licensed, accredited veterinarian in rural
24 Oklahoma as required by the ~~Veterinary Center~~ College;

1 3. Engage in the full-time practice, focused on large animal
2 medicine, ~~of veterinary medicine~~ in any community in Oklahoma which
3 has a population not exceeding twenty-five thousand (25,000) as
4 determined by the most recent Federal Decennial Census at the time
5 the person entered into the program agreement for a period of at
6 least twelve (12) continuous months for each separate year a student
7 receives assistance under the program, unless the obligation is
8 otherwise satisfied as provided in this section. If, after the date
9 a program agreement was entered into by the parties, a community no
10 longer meets the maximum population requirements provided in this
11 paragraph, a person engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary
12 medicine pursuant to the program agreement shall continue to
13 practice in that designated community; and

14 4. Commence the full-time practice, focused on large animal
15 medicine, ~~of veterinary medicine~~ in that community within ninety
16 (90) days after completion of the person's degree program, or if the
17 person enters a postdegree training program, such as a graduate
18 school or internship or residency program, within ninety (90) days
19 after completion of the postdegree training program.

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21 E. Upon the failure of a person to satisfy the obligation to
22 engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
23 accordance with the provisions of this section, that person shall
24 repay to the ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority, within ninety (90) days of

1 the failure, the amount equal to the assistance provided to the
2 person less a prorated amount based on any periods of practice of
3 veterinary medicine meeting the requirements of this section, plus
4 interest at the prime rate of interest plus two percent (2%) from
5 the date the assistance accrued. The interest shall be compounded
6 annually.

7 F. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
8 medicine in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be
9 postponed during:

10 1. Any period of temporary medical disability during which the
11 person obligated is unable to practice veterinary medicine due to
12 the disability; and

13 2. Any other period of postponement agreed to or determined in
14 accordance with criteria agreed to in the practice agreement.

15 G. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
16 medicine in accordance with the provisions of the agreement and this
17 section shall be satisfied:

18 1. If the obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
19 medicine in accordance with the agreement has been completed;

20 2. If, because of permanent disability, the person obligated is
21 unable to practice veterinary medicine; or

22 3. The person who is obligated dies.
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1 H. The ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority may adopt additional
2 provisions, requirements or conditions to participate in this
3 program as are practicable and appropriate to accomplish the
4 provisions of the program or may be required for the implementation
5 or administration of the program, and are not inconsistent with the
6 provisions of this section.

7 ~~I. The Veterinary Center shall not enter into any program~~
8 ~~agreements pursuant to the provisions of this section after July 1,~~
9 ~~2025. All agreements entered into prior to such date shall be~~
10 ~~valid.~~

11 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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