

1 order to provide encouragement, opportunities and incentives for
2 persons pursuing a veterinary medicine degree at Oklahoma State
3 University to locate their veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma
4 communities, and receive specialized training targeted to meet the
5 needs of livestock producers in rural Oklahoma communities.

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

19 C. ~~Subject to available funds, each~~ Each student or large
20 animal veterinarian entering into a program agreement under this
21 section shall receive assistance in an amount not to exceed ~~Twenty~~
22 ~~Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)~~ Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars
23 (\$25,000.00) per year for not more than four (4) years for tuition,
24 books, supplies and other school expenses, and travel and training

1 expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary medicine
2 degree. Upon satisfaction of all commitments under the provisions
3 of the agreement and the provisions of this section, the financial
4 obligations pursuant to this section shall be deemed satisfied and
5 forgiven.

6 D. Each program agreement shall require that the person
7 receiving the assistance:

8 1. Complete the veterinary medicine degree program at the
9 ~~Veterinary Center~~ Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary
10 Medicine;

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

16 3. Engage in the full-time practice, focused on large animal
17 medicine, ~~of veterinary medicine~~ in any community in Oklahoma which
18 has a population not exceeding twenty-five thousand (25,000) as
19 determined by the most recent Federal Decennial Census at the time
20 the person entered into the program agreement for a period of at
21 least twelve (12) continuous months for each separate year a student
22 receives assistance under the program, unless the obligation is
23 otherwise satisfied as provided in this section. If, after the date
24 a program agreement was entered into by the parties, a community no

1 longer meets the maximum population requirements provided in this
2 paragraph, a person engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary
3 medicine pursuant to the program agreement shall continue to
4 practice in that designated community; and

5 4. Commence the full-time practice, focused on large animal
6 medicine, ~~of veterinary medicine~~ in that community within ninety
7 (90) days after completion of the person's degree program, or if the
8 person enters a postdegree training program, such as a graduate
9 school or internship or residency program, within ninety (90) days
10 after completion of the postdegree training program.

11 E. Upon the failure of a person to satisfy the obligation to
12 engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
13 accordance with the provisions of this section, that person shall
14 repay to the ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority, within ninety (90) days of
15 the failure, the amount equal to the assistance provided to the
16 person less a prorated amount based on any periods of practice of
17 veterinary medicine meeting the requirements of this section, plus
18 interest at the prime rate of interest plus two percent (2%) from
19 the date the assistance accrued. The interest shall be compounded
20 annually.

21 F. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
22 medicine in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be
23 postponed during:

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

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

6 G. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
7 medicine in accordance with the provisions of the agreement and this
8 section shall be satisfied:

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

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

13 3. The person who is obligated dies.

14 H. The ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority may adopt additional
15 provisions, requirements or conditions to participate in this
16 program as are practicable and appropriate to accomplish the
17 provisions of the program or may be required for the implementation
18 or administration of the program, and are not inconsistent with the
19 provisions of this section.

20 ~~I. The Veterinary Center shall not enter into any program~~
21 ~~agreements pursuant to the provisions of this section after July 1,~~
22 ~~2025. All agreements entered into prior to such date shall be~~
23 ~~valid.~~

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

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, dated
7 02/15/2024 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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