

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 3196

By: Newton and Archer of the
House

and

Jech and Pederson of the
Senate

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.

SUBJECT: Professions and occupations

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

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

Section 698.33 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as
the "Dr. Lee Denney Act of 2024".

B. There is hereby established the veterinary training program
for rural Oklahoma to be administered by the Oklahoma State
University Center for Veterinary ~~Health Sciences~~ Medicine Authority.
The program shall be developed and implemented in order to provide
encouragement, opportunities and incentives for persons pursuing a
veterinary medicine degree at Oklahoma State University to locate
their veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma communities, and receive

specialized training targeted to meet the needs of livestock producers in rural Oklahoma communities.

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

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

~~D. E.~~ E. Each program agreement shall require that the person receiving the assistance:

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

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

3. Engage in ~~the~~ a full-time practice of veterinary medicine focused on large animal medicine in any community in Oklahoma which has a population not exceeding twenty-five thousand (25,000) as

determined by the most recent Federal Decennial Census at the time the person entered into the program agreement for a period of at least twelve (12) continuous months for each separate year a student receives assistance under the program, unless the obligation is otherwise satisfied as provided in this section. If, after the date a program agreement was entered into by the parties, a community no longer meets the maximum population requirements provided in this paragraph, a person engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to the program agreement shall continue to practice in that designated community; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. The person who is obligated dies.

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 26th day of February, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 24th day of April, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____