

**VETERINARIAN EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

**AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill makes changes to the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ modifies the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program (program) to make annual loan balance payments; and
- ▶ expands the program to a veterinarian whose practice includes at least 30% livestock medicine.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**4-2-901**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 134

**4-2-902**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 134

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **4-2-901** is amended to read:



28 **4-2-901. Definitions.**

29 As used in this part:

30 (1) "Animal shelter" means the same as that term is defined in Section [11-46-102](#).

31 (2) "Education loan" means a loan received for education at a domestic or foreign

32 institution of higher education, including a school or college of veterinary medicine.

33 (3) "Education loan balance" includes charges for paying off the balance of the loan.

34 (4) "Indian country" means the same as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.

35 (5) "Livestock" means the same as that term is defined in Section [4-1-109](#).36 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) "Loan" means a loan that is made directly by, insured by, or guaranteed under  
37 a government program of:

38 (a) a state;

39 (b) the United States; or

40 (c) a foreign government.

41 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Maximum payment value" means the lesser of:

42 (a) the sum of a qualified veterinarian's education loan balances; or

43 (b) ~~[\$100,000]~~ \$20,000.44 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) "Program" means the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program  
45 created in Section [4-2-902](#).46 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) "Qualified veterinarian" means a veterinarian who has practiced as a  
47 veterinarian ~~[for five or more consecutive years beginning on or after May 3, 2023]:~~48 (a) in an area of the state~~[:]~~ that is Indian country;49 ~~[(i) designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as a veterinary shortage  
50 situation during at least one of the five years; or]~~51 ~~[(ii) that is Indian country;]~~

52 (b) in an animal shelter within the state operated by:

53 (i) a county;

54 (ii) a municipality; or

55 (iii) an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section

56 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code;

57 (c) in any area of the state as an employee of the department; ~~[or]~~58 (d) in any combination of the places described in Subsections ~~[(8)(a)]~~ (9)(a) through

59 (c)~~[-];~~ or

60 (e) with a practice that includes at least 30% livestock medicine.

61 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) "Veterinarian" means an individual licensed under Title 58, Chapter 28,  
62 Veterinary Practice Act.

63 Section 2. Section **4-2-902** is amended to read:

64 **4-2-902. Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program.**

65 (1) There is created within the department the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment  
66 Program.

67 (2) (a) Beginning July 1, ~~[2028]~~ 2024, the program shall on a first-come, first-served  
68 basis make payments toward a qualified veterinarian's education loan balances.

69 (b) A veterinarian is eligible for payments under Subsection (2)(a) if the veterinarian:

70 (i) applies as a qualified veterinarian for payment from the program; and

71 (ii) registers with the program at least ~~[five years]~~ one year before the day the  
72 veterinarian applies under Subsection (2)(b)(i) for payment.

73 (c) Payments made under Subsection (2)(a) shall:

74 (i) be made directly to one or more of the qualified veterinarian's lenders; ~~[and]~~

75 (ii) as funding for the program permits, ~~[in total]~~ each year equal the maximum  
76 payment value~~[-];~~ and

77 (iii) extend for a period no longer than five years for the qualified veterinarian.

78 (3) The department may use 2% or less of the amount appropriated for the program to  
79 pay for actual costs of administering the program.

80 (4) On or before October 1 each year, the department shall submit a report of the  
81 program's revenues, expenditures, and outcomes to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and  
82 Environment Interim Committee and the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental  
83 Quality Appropriations Subcommittee.

84 (5) The department may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
85 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to administer the program, including rules specifying how a  
86 veterinarian may register intent to apply for payment from the program.

87 Section 3. **Effective date.**

88 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.