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**VETERINARIAN EDUCATION LOAN  
REPAYMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

Senate Sponsor: Ronald M. Winterton

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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:

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

As used in this part:

- (1) "Animal shelter" means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-46-102.
- (2) "Education loan" means a loan received for education at a domestic or foreign

- 27 institution of higher education, including a school or college of veterinary medicine.
- 28 (3) "Education loan balance" includes charges for paying off the balance of the loan.
- 29 (4) "Indian country" means the same as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.
- 30 (5) "Livestock" means the same as that term is defined in Section 4-1-109.
- 31 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) "Loan" means a loan that is made directly by, insured by, or guaranteed under a
- 32 government program of:
- 33 (a) a state;
- 34 (b) the United States; or
- 35 (c) a foreign government.
- 36 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) "Maximum payment value" means the lesser of:
- 37 (a) the sum of a qualified veterinarian's education loan balances; or
- 38 (b) ~~[\$100,000]~~ \$20,000.
- 39 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) "Program" means the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program created in
- 40 Section 4-2-902.
- 41 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) "Qualified veterinarian" means a veterinarian who has practiced as a veterinarian[
- 42 ~~for five or more consecutive years beginning on or after May 3, 2023]:~~
- 43 (a) in an area of the state~~[-]~~ that is Indian country;
- 44 ~~[(i) designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as a veterinary~~
- 45 ~~shortage situation during at least one of the five years; or]~~
- 46 ~~[(ii) that is Indian country;]~~
- 47 (b) in an animal shelter within the state operated by:
- 48 (i) a county;
- 49 (ii) a municipality; or
- 50 (iii) an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section
- 51 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code;
- 52 (c) in any area of the state as an employee of the department; ~~[or]~~
- 53 (d) in any combination of the places described in Subsections ~~[(8)(a)]~~ (9)(a) through (c)~~[-]~~ ;
- 54 or
- 55 (e) with a practice that includes at least 30% livestock medicine.
- 56 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) "Veterinarian" means an individual licensed under Title 58, Chapter 28,
- 57 Veterinary Practice Act.
- 58 Section 2. Section **4-2-902** is amended to read:
- 59 **4-2-902 . Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program.**
- 60 (1) There is created within the department the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment

- 61 Program.
- 62 (2) (a) Beginning July 1, [~~2028~~] 2024, the program shall on a first-come, first-served  
63 basis make payments toward a qualified veterinarian's education loan balances.
- 64 (b) A veterinarian is eligible for payments under Subsection (2)(a) if the veterinarian:  
65 (i) applies as a qualified veterinarian for payment from the program; and  
66 (ii) registers with the program at least [~~five years~~] one year before the day the  
67 veterinarian applies under Subsection (2)(b)(i) for payment.
- 68 (c) Payments made under Subsection (2)(a) shall:  
69 (i) be made directly to one or more of the qualified veterinarian's lenders; [~~and~~]  
70 (ii) as funding for the program permits, [~~in total~~] each year equal the maximum  
71 payment value[-] ; and  
72 (iii) extend for a period no longer than five years for the qualified veterinarian.
- 73 (3) The department may use 2% or less of the amount appropriated for the program to pay  
74 for actual costs of administering the program.
- 75 (4) On or before October 1 each year, the department shall submit a report of the program's  
76 revenues, expenditures, and outcomes to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and  
77 Environment Interim Committee and the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and  
78 Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee.
- 79 (5) The department may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
80 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to administer the program, including rules specifying  
81 how a veterinarian may register intent to apply for payment from the program.

82 Section 3. **Effective date.**

83 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.