

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2009

192Q0209

HOUSE EDUCATION ENGROSSED NO. **HB 1181** - 2/11/2009

Introduced by: Representatives Brunner, Burg, Carson, Cronin, Fargen, Feickert, Juhnke, Pitts, Schrempp, Sorenson, Van Gerpen, Vanneman, and Wink and Senators Rhoden, Ahlers, Bartling, Fryslie, Garnos, Hansen (Tom), and Peterson

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish a veterinary education loan repayment program
2 for veterinarians who fulfill certain requirements.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. Terms used in this Act mean:

5 (1) "Board," the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners;

6 (2) "Program," the veterinary education loan repayment program established pursuant to
7 section 2 of this Act.

8 Section 2. The veterinary education loan repayment program is hereby established. The
9 program shall be implemented and overseen by the State Board of Veterinary Medical
10 Examiners. The purpose of the program is to provide education loan repayment benefits for
11 eligible veterinarians who fulfill certain requirements and practice veterinary medicine in
12 eligible communities.

13 Section 3. A veterinarian is eligible to receive education loan repayment benefits pursuant
14 to the provisions of this Act if the veterinarian is a graduate of an accredited college of



1 veterinary medicine, is licensed to practice veterinary medicine pursuant to chapter 36-12,
2 agrees to provide full-time large animal veterinary services in an eligible community for a
3 period of time specified by the board, and is determined to be eligible by the board. However,
4 no more than three veterinarians may participate in this program at any given time.

5 Section 4. The board may provide education loan repayment benefits only to a veterinarian
6 who has received an educational loan. The board may not provide funds for the repayment of
7 a loan that is in default at the time of application.

8 Section 5. For purposes of this Act, an eligible community is any community in this state
9 that:

- 10 (1) Has a population of fifteen thousand or less;
- 11 (2) Demonstrates a need for and the capacity to support large animal veterinary medical
12 services; and
- 13 (3) Is determined to be eligible by the board.

14 Before making a determination under subdivision (3) of this section, the board shall conduct
15 a community assessment designed to evaluate the community's need for large animal veterinary
16 medical services and its ability to support and sustain a veterinarian. The board shall maintain
17 a list of communities that have been assessed and are eligible for participation in the program.
18 The board may revise any community assessment or conduct a new assessment as necessary to
19 reflect any change in conditions within a community.

20 Section 6. The board shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to provide for the
21 establishment of eligibility criteria for the veterinary education loan repayment program,
22 application forms and procedures, award amounts, award procedures and criteria, community
23 eligibility criteria, and conditions for use of loan repayment funds.

24 Section 7. The board shall enter into a contract with each veterinarian who is selected to

1 receive education loan repayment benefits under this Act specifying the terms and conditions
2 of the award. Upon completing the first year of service, as required by the contract, a
3 veterinarian who has been selected to participate in the program is eligible to receive a loan
4 payment in an amount not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars. Upon completing a second year
5 of service, as required by the contract, a participating veterinarian is eligible to receive a loan
6 payment in an amount not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars. Upon completing a third year of
7 service, as required by the contract, a participating veterinarian is eligible to receive a loan
8 payment in an amount not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Upon completing a fourth
9 year if service, as required but by the contract, a participating veterinarian is eligible to receive
10 a loan payment in an amount not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. All payments made
11 under this section shall be made to the issuer of the education loan. No individual may receive
12 more than eighty thousand dollars under the program, and no individual may receive payment
13 under the program for more than four years of service. If an individual participating in the
14 program fails to complete an entire year of service, the amount repayable under this section for
15 that year shall be prorated.

16 Section 8. There is hereby established in the state treasury the veterinary education loan
17 repayment fund. Money shall enter the fund through contributions, grants, transfers, settlement
18 funds, interest received on moneys in the fund, and any other moneys received for the purposes
19 of this Act. Money shall be appropriated from the fund to the State Board of Veterinary Medical
20 Examiners through the normal budget process as set forth in § 4-7-9 to implement the veterinary
21 education loan repayment program.