

I\_133\_0512-2

133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020

Sub. H. B. No. 67

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**A BILL**

To amend section 4743.05 and to enact sections 1  
4741.50, 4741.51, 4741.52, 4741.53, 4741.54, 2  
4741.55, 4741.56, and 4741.57 of the Revised 3  
Code to create the Veterinarian Student Debt 4  
Assistance Program. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 4743.05 be amended and sections 6  
4741.50, 4741.51, 4741.52, 4741.53, 4741.54, 4741.55, 4741.56, 7  
and 4741.57 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 4741.50.** (A) As used in sections 4741.50 to 4741.56 9  
of the Revised Code: 10

(1) "Educational expenses" means all of the following 11  
expenses that were incurred while a veterinarian was enrolled, 12  
for a maximum of four years, in a veterinary college that, 13  
during the time of enrollment, was approved by the state 14  
veterinary medical licensing board or accredited by the American 15  
veterinary medical association: 16

(a) Tuition; 17



(b) Other educational expenses, such as fees, books, and laboratory expenses, for specific purposes and in amounts determined to be reasonable by the board; 18  
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(c) Room and board, in an amount determined to be reasonable by the board. 21  
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(2) "Educational loan" includes the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan used to pay educational expenses. 23  
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(B) There is hereby created the veterinarian student debt assistance program. Under the program, the state veterinary medical licensing board, by means of a contract entered into under section 4741.54 of the Revised Code, may agree to repay all or part of any educational loans taken out by a veterinarian for educational expenses. The board shall operate the program in accordance with sections 4741.50 to 4741.57 of the Revised Code. 26  
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**Sec. 4741.51.** (A) The state veterinary medical licensing board, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt rules necessary to implement and administer the veterinarian student debt assistance program. 33  
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(B) Rules adopted under division (A) of this section shall do all of the following: 37  
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(1) Provide for the development of a lottery system for selecting who, from the list of eligible veterinarians, will receive veterinarian student debt assistance; 39  
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(2) Provide for a method to determine the amount that each recipient of veterinarian student debt assistance receives if selected through the lottery system. The rules shall require that, each calendar year, all recipients receive the same amount of assistance. That amount shall be between five thousand and 42  
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ten thousand dollars per recipient. 47

(3) Establish the types of charitable veterinarian 48  
services that qualify for application to and participation in 49  
the program, including, but not limited to, spay and neutering 50  
services; 51

(4) Establish the minimum amount of time that a 52  
veterinarian must have performed charitable veterinarian 53  
services to be eligible to apply to the program. The number of 54  
hours shall be not less than twelve. 55

(5) Establish the minimum period of time, not to exceed 56  
two years, that a veterinarian must agree to reside in this 57  
state under a contract entered into under section 4741.54 of the 58  
Revised Code; 59

(6) Provide for the inclusion of information regarding the 60  
program on application forms for both an initial veterinary 61  
license and a renewal of a veterinary license; 62

(7) Establish any other procedures and requirements that 63  
the board determines is necessary to administer and implement 64  
the program. 65

**Sec. 4741.52.** (A) A veterinarian who meets all of the 66  
following requirements is eligible to apply for participation in 67  
the veterinarian student debt assistance program: 68

(1) The veterinarian is a citizen of the United States, a 69  
national of the United States, or a permanent resident of the 70  
United States. 71

(2) The veterinarian is licensed under this chapter and 72  
has been engaged in the practice or instruction of veterinary 73  
medicine in this state for more than six months prior to 74

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| <u>submitting an application for veterinarian student debt</u>         | 75  |
| <u>assistance.</u>   | 76  |
| <u>(3) The veterinarian has taken out an educational loan.</u>         | 77  |
| <u>(4) The educational loan was used for educational expenses</u>      | 78  |
| <u>that were incurred while the veterinarian was enrolled in a</u>     | 79  |
| <u>veterinary college.</u>   | 80  |
| <u>(5) The veterinarian has performed charitable veterinarian</u>      | 81  |
| <u>services in accordance with rules adopted under section 4741.51</u> | 82  |
| <u>of the Revised Code.</u>  | 83  |
| <u>(6) The veterinarian is not a member of the state</u>               | 84  |
| <u>veterinary medical licensing board at the time the application</u>  | 85  |
| <u>is submitted under division (B) of this section.</u>                | 86  |
| <u>(7) The veterinarian is not an active participant in the</u>        | 87  |
| <u>veterinary student debt assistance program.</u>                     | 88  |
| <u>(B) A veterinarian shall submit an application for</u>              | 89  |
| <u>participation in the veterinarian student debt assistance</u>       | 90  |
| <u>program to the state veterinary medical licensing board on a</u>    | 91  |
| <u>form that the board prescribes. The veterinarian shall submit</u>   | 92  |
| <u>the following information with an application:</u>                  | 93  |
| <u>(1) The veterinarian's name, permanent address or address</u>       | 94  |
| <u>at which the veterinarian is currently residing if different</u>    | 95  |
| <u>from the permanent address, and telephone number;</u>               | 96  |
| <u>(2) The veterinary college the veterinarian attended and</u>        | 97  |
| <u>the dates of attendance;</u>  | 98  |
| <u>(3) A summary and verification of the educational expenses</u>      | 99  |
| <u>for which the veterinarian seeks reimbursement under the</u>        | 100 |
| <u>program;</u>  | 101 |

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| <u>(4) Verification of the veterinarian's authorization under this chapter to practice veterinary medicine;</u>  | 102<br>103  |
| <u>(5) Verification that the veterinarian is a citizen of the United States, a national of the United States, or a permanent resident of the United States;</u>  | 104<br>105<br>106   |
| <u>(6) A statement attesting that the veterinarian performed charitable veterinarian services in accordance with rules adopted under section 4741.51 of the Revised Code;</u>  | 107<br>108<br>109   |
| <u>(7) Any other information the board determines is necessary and appropriate.</u>  | 110<br>111  |
| <b><u>Sec. 4741.53.</u></b> (A) <u>If the veterinarian student debt assistance fund created in section 4741.56 of the Revised Code contains sufficient money and the general assembly has appropriated funds for the veterinarian student debt assistance program, the state veterinary medical licensing board may approve a veterinarian for participation in the program if the board finds that the veterinarian is eligible for participation in the program. By the first day of June each year, the board shall compile a list of all eligible veterinarians.</u> | 112<br>113<br>114<br>115<br>116<br>117<br>118<br>119<br>120 |
| (B) <u>The state veterinary medical licensing board shall select eligible veterinarians to receive veterinarian student debt assistance in accordance with the lottery system established in rules adopted under section 4741.51 of the Revised Code.</u>  | 121<br>122<br>123<br>124<br>125                             |
| (C) <u>Upon selection of a veterinarian, the board shall notify and enter into discussions with the veterinarian. The object of the discussions is to determine if the veterinarian agrees to do both of the following:</u>  | 126<br>127<br>128<br>129                                    |
| <u>(1) Perform charitable veterinarian services in this state</u>  | 130   |

in an amount and for a duration of time established in rules 131  
adopted under section 4741.51 of the Revised Code; 132

(2) Reside in this state for a minimum duration of time 133  
established in rules adopted under section 4741.51 of the 134  
Revised Code after the receipt of veterinarian student debt 135  
assistance. 136

If, after discussions, the veterinarian so agrees, the 137  
veterinarian shall prepare, sign, and deliver to the board a 138  
letter of intent stipulating the agreed to terms. 139

(D) If the veterinarian does not prepare, sign, and 140  
deliver the letter of intent to the board within thirty days of 141  
receiving notice under division (C) of this section, the 142  
veterinarian forfeits their acceptance into the program and the 143  
board shall select another veterinarian for participation in the 144  
program. 145

**Sec. 4741.54.** (A) After signing a letter of intent under 146  
section 4741.53 of the Revised Code, a veterinarian and the 147  
state veterinary medical licensing board may enter into a 148  
contract for the veterinarian's participation in the veterinary 149  
student debt assistance program. A lending institution also may 150  
be a party to the contract. 151

(B) The contract shall include all of the following 152  
obligations: 153

(1) The veterinarian agrees to perform charitable 154  
veterinarian services in this state in a manner and for a time 155  
and duration specified in the contract. 156

(2) The veterinarian agrees to continue to reside in this 157  
state for a duration of time specified in the contract. 158

(3) The board agrees to repay, so long as the veterinarian performs the obligations agreed to under divisions (B) (1) and (2) of this section, all or part of an educational loan taken by the veterinarian in an amount and under terms specified in the contract. 159  
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(4) The veterinarian agrees to pay the board damages in an amount specified in the contract, up to the amount the board awarded the veterinarian, if the veterinarian fails to complete the obligations agreed to under divisions (B) (1) and (2) of this section. 164  
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(5) An assignment to the board of the veterinarian's duty to pay the principal and interest of a government or other educational loan taken by the veterinarian for expenses described in section 4741.50 of the Revised Code; 169  
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(6) The terms of the assignment under division (B) (5) of this section, which shall set forth the total amount of principal and interest to be paid, an amortization schedule, and the amount of each payment to be made under the schedule. 173  
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(C) The contract may include any other terms agreed to by the parties. 177  
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(D) Not later than the thirty-first day of January each year, the board shall mail to each veterinarian to whom or on whose behalf veterinary student debt assistance is provided a statement showing the amount of principal and interest repaid by the board in the preceding year pursuant to the contract. The board shall send the statement by ordinary mail with address correction and forwarding requested in the manner prescribed by the United States postal service. 179  
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(E) The board shall deposit money collected from damages 187

under division (B)(4) of this section into the veterinary 188  
student debt assistance fund created in section 4741.56 of the 189  
Revised Code. 190

**Sec. 4741.55.** (A) The state veterinary medical licensing 191  
board shall post the following information regarding the 192  
veterinary student debt assistance program on the board's web 193  
site: 194

(1) The total number of veterinarians who applied to 195  
participate in the program within the prior twelve months; 196

(2) The total amount of money awarded to program 197  
participants within the prior twelve months; 198

(3) Any other information the board determines to be 199  
pertinent. 200

(B) The board shall post the information specified in 201  
division (A) of this section annually after the conclusion of 202  
entering into contracts with program participants under section 203  
4741.54 of the Revised Code for the applicable calendar year. 204

**Sec. 4741.56.** (A) There is hereby created the veterinary 205  
student debt assistance fund in the state treasury to be used by 206  
the state veterinary medical licensing board for the 207  
implementation and administration of sections 4741.50 to 4741.57 208  
of the Revised Code. 209

(B) The fund shall consist of all of the following: 210

(1) Money transferred into the fund from the occupational 211  
licensing and regulatory fund in accordance with section 4743.05 212  
of the Revised Code; 213

(2) Money received from gifts, donations, and bequests; 214



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| <u>(3) Damages collected from program participants who fail</u>        | 215 |
| <u>to fulfill their service obligations;</u>                           | 216 |
| <u>(4) Any other money contributed to the fund.</u>                    | 217 |
| <b>Sec. 4741.57.</b> (A) <u>As used in this section, "veterinarian</u> | 218 |
| <u>licenses and registrations" means all of the following issued</u>   | 219 |
| <u>under section 4741.17 of the Revised Code:</u>                      | 220 |
| <u>(1) An initial veterinary license;</u>                              | 221 |
| <u>(2) An initial limited license to practice veterinary</u>           | 222 |
| <u>medicine for an intern, resident in a veterinary specialty, or</u>  | 223 |
| <u>graduate student;</u>   | 224 |
| <u>(3) An initial limited license to practice veterinary</u>           | 225 |
| <u>medicine for an instructor, researcher, or diagnostician;</u>       | 226 |
| <u>(4) A veterinary temporary permit;</u>                              | 227 |
| <u>(5) A duplicate license;</u>  | 228 |
| <u>(6) A renewal of a veterinary license;</u>                          | 229 |
| <u>(7) A renewal of a limited license to practice veterinary</u>       | 230 |
| <u>medicine;</u>   | 231 |
| <u>(8) An initial registered veterinary technician</u>                 | 232 |
| <u>registration;</u>   | 233 |
| <u>(9) A renewal of a registered veterinary technician</u>             | 234 |
| <u>registration;</u>   | 235 |
| <u>(10) A specialist certificate;</u>                                  | 236 |
| <u>(11) The reinstatement of a suspended or lapsed license;</u>        | 237 |
| <u>(12) A provisional veterinary graduate license.</u>                 | 238 |
| <u>(B) Beginning July 1, 2020, and every two years</u>                 | 239 |

thereafter, the board shall certify to the director of budget 240  
and management an amount equal to the amount received for 241  
issuing veterinarian licenses and registrations during the 242  
preceding fiscal year minus both of the following: 243

(1) The amount deposited into the veterinarian loan 244  
repayment fund created in section 4741.46 of the Revised Code in 245  
that fiscal year; 246

(2) The amount appropriated to the board from the 247  
occupational licensing and regulatory fund in that fiscal year. 248

**Sec. 4743.05.** (A) Except as otherwise provided in sections 249  
4701.20, 4723.062, 4723.082, 4729.65, 4781.121, and 4781.28 of 250  
the Revised Code, all money collected under Chapters 3773., 251  
4701., 4703., 4709., 4713., 4715., 4717., 4723., 4725., 4729., 252  
4732., 4733., 4734., 4736., 4741., 4744., 4747., 4753., 4755., 253  
4757., 4758., 4771., 4775., 4779., and 4781. of the Revised Code 254  
shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the 255  
occupational licensing and regulatory fund, which is hereby 256  
created for use in administering such chapters. 257

(B) At the end of each quarter, the director of budget and 258  
management shall transfer from the occupational licensing and 259  
regulatory fund to the nurse education assistance fund created 260  
in section 3333.28 of the Revised Code the amount certified to 261  
the director under division (B) of section 4723.08 of the 262  
Revised Code. 263

(C) At the end of each quarter, the director shall 264  
transfer from the occupational licensing and regulatory fund to 265  
the certified public accountant education assistance fund 266  
created in section 4701.26 of the Revised Code the amount 267  
certified to the director under division (H) (2) of section 268

4701.10 of the Revised Code. 269

(D) On July 30, 2020, and every two years thereafter, the 270  
director shall transfer from the occupational licensing and 271  
regulatory fund to the veterinary student debt assistance fund 272  
created in section 4741.56 of the Revised Code the amount 273  
certified to the director under section 4741.57 of the Revised 274  
Code. 275

**Section 2.** That existing section 4743.05 of the Revised 276  
Code is hereby repealed. 277