

I_133_0512-6

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020

Sub. H. B. No. 67

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



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(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) Establish procedures for the selection of veterinarian student debt assistance recipients, including the development of a lottery system for selecting who, from the list of eligible veterinarians, will receive assistance. The rules shall require that the selection of recipients occur in each odd-numbered calendar year. 39
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(2) Provide for a method to determine the amount that each recipient of veterinarian student debt assistance receives if 45
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selected through the lottery system. The rules shall require 47
that all recipients receive the same amount of assistance in 48
each year in which assistance is awarded. The rules also shall 49
require that the amount awarded to each recipient is not less 50
than five thousand dollars and not more than ten thousand 51
dollars. 52

(3) Establish the types of charitable veterinarian 53
services that qualify for application to and participation in 54
the program, including, but not limited to, spay and neutering 55
services. The rules shall require an applicant to complete 56
charitable veterinarian services in service to a nonprofit 57
organization, a humane society established under Chapter 1717. 58
of the Revised Code, a law enforcement agency, or a state, 59
local, or federal government entity. 60

(4) Establish the minimum amount of time that a 61
veterinarian must have performed charitable veterinarian 62
services to be eligible to apply to the program. The number of 63
hours shall be not less than twelve. 64

(5) Establish the minimum period of time, not to exceed 65
two years, that a veterinarian must agree to reside in this 66
state under a contract entered into under section 4741.54 of the 67
Revised Code; 68

(6) Provide for the inclusion of information regarding the 69
program on application forms for both an initial veterinary 70
license and a renewal of a veterinary license; 71

(7) Establish any other procedures and requirements that 72
the board determines is necessary to administer and implement 73
the program. 74

Sec. 4741.52. (A) A veterinarian who meets all of the 75

following requirements is eligible to apply for participation in 76
the veterinarian student debt assistance program: 77

(1) The veterinarian is a citizen of the United States, a 78
national of the United States, or a permanent resident of the 79
United States. 80

(2) The veterinarian is licensed under this chapter and 81
has been engaged in the practice or instruction of veterinary 82
medicine in this state for more than six months prior to 83
submitting an application for veterinarian student debt 84
assistance. 85

(3) The veterinarian has taken out an educational loan. 86

(4) The educational loan was used for educational expenses 87
that were incurred while the veterinarian was enrolled in a 88
veterinary college. 89

(5) The veterinarian has performed charitable veterinarian 90
services in accordance with rules adopted under section 4741.51 91
of the Revised Code. 92

(6) The veterinarian is not a member of the state 93
veterinary medical licensing board at the time the application 94
is submitted under division (B) of this section. 95

(7) The veterinarian is not under contract with the board 96
under section 4741.54 of the Revised Code and has not been under 97
contract with the board under that section within one year prior 98
to submitting an application. 99

(B) A veterinarian shall submit an application for 100
participation in the veterinarian student debt assistance 101
program to the state veterinary medical licensing board on a 102
form that the board prescribes. The veterinarian shall submit 103

<u>the following information with an application:</u>	104
<u>(1) The veterinarian's name, permanent address or address</u>	105
<u>at which the veterinarian is currently residing if different</u>	106
<u>from the permanent address, and telephone number;</u>	107
<u>(2) The veterinary college the veterinarian attended and</u>	108
<u>the dates of attendance;</u>	109
<u>(3) A summary and verification of the educational expenses</u>	110
<u>for which the veterinarian seeks reimbursement under the</u>	111
<u>program;</u>	112
<u>(4) Verification of the veterinarian's authorization under</u>	113
<u>this chapter to practice veterinary medicine;</u>	114
<u>(5) Verification that the veterinarian is a citizen of the</u>	115
<u>United States, a national of the United States, or a permanent</u>	116
<u>resident of the United States;</u>	117
<u>(6) A statement attesting that the veterinarian performed</u>	118
<u>charitable veterinarian services in accordance with rules</u>	119
<u>adopted under section 4741.51 of the Revised Code;</u>	120
<u>(7) Any other information the board determines is</u>	121
<u>necessary and appropriate.</u>	122
Sec. 4741.53. <u>(A) If the veterinarian student debt</u>	123
<u>assistance fund created in section 4741.56 of the Revised Code</u>	124
<u>contains sufficient money and the general assembly has</u>	125
<u>appropriated funds for the veterinarian student debt assistance</u>	126
<u>program, the state veterinary medical licensing board may</u>	127
<u>approve a veterinarian for participation in the program if the</u>	128
<u>board finds that the veterinarian is eligible for participation</u>	129
<u>in the program. By the first day of June of each odd-numbered</u>	130
<u>calendar year, the board shall compile a list of all</u>	131

veterinarians who applied in accordance with section 4741.52 of 132
the Revised Code. 133

(B) The state veterinary medical licensing board shall 134
select eligible veterinarians to receive veterinarian student 135
debt assistance in accordance with the lottery system 136
established in rules adopted under section 4741.51 of the 137
Revised Code. 138

(C) Upon selection of a veterinarian, the board shall 139
notify and enter into discussions with the veterinarian. The 140
object of the discussions is to determine if the veterinarian 141
agrees to do both of the following: 142

(1) Perform charitable veterinarian services in this state 143
in an amount and for a duration of time established in rules 144
adopted under section 4741.51 of the Revised Code; 145

(2) Reside in this state for a minimum duration of time 146
established in rules adopted under section 4741.51 of the 147
Revised Code after the receipt of veterinarian student debt 148
assistance. 149

If, after discussions, the veterinarian so agrees, the 150
veterinarian shall prepare, sign, and deliver to the board a 151
letter of intent stipulating the agreed to terms. 152

(D) If the veterinarian does not prepare, sign, and 153
deliver the letter of intent to the board within thirty days of 154
receiving notice under division (C) of this section, the 155
veterinarian forfeits their acceptance into the program and the 156
board shall select another veterinarian for participation in the 157
program. 158

Sec. 4741.54. (A) After signing a letter of intent under 159
section 4741.53 of the Revised Code, a veterinarian and the 160

state veterinary medical licensing board may enter into a 161
contract, for not more than two years, for the veterinarian's 162
participation in the veterinary student debt assistance program. 163
A lending institution also may be a party to the contract. 164

(B) The contract shall include all of the following 165
obligations: 166

(1) The veterinarian agrees to perform charitable 167
veterinarian services in this state in a manner and for a time 168
and duration specified in the contract. 169

(2) The veterinarian agrees to continue to reside in this 170
state for a duration of time specified in the contract. 171

(3) The board agrees to repay, so long as the veterinarian 172
performs the obligations agreed to under divisions (B) (1) and 173
(2) of this section, all or part of an educational loan taken by 174
the veterinarian in an amount and under terms specified in the 175
contract. 176

(4) The veterinarian agrees to pay the board damages in an 177
amount specified in the contract, up to the amount the board 178
awarded the veterinarian, if the veterinarian fails to complete 179
the obligations agreed to under divisions (B) (1) and (2) of this 180
section. 181

(5) An assignment to the board of the veterinarian's duty 182
to pay the principal and interest of a government or other 183
educational loan taken by the veterinarian for expenses 184
described in section 4741.50 of the Revised Code; 185

(6) The terms of the assignment under division (B) (5) of 186
this section, which shall set forth the total amount of 187
principal and interest to be paid, an amortization schedule, and 188
the amount of each payment to be made under the schedule. 189

(C) The contract may include any other terms agreed to by 190
the parties. 191

(D) Not later than the thirty-first day of January each 192
year, the board shall cause to be mailed to each veterinarian to 193
whom or on whose behalf veterinary student debt assistance is 194
provided a statement showing the amount of principal and 195
interest repaid by the board in the preceding year pursuant to 196
the contract. The board shall send the statement by ordinary 197
mail with address correction and forwarding requested in the 198
manner prescribed by the United States postal service. 199

(E) The board shall deposit money collected from damages 200
under division (B) (4) of this section into the veterinary 201
student debt assistance fund created in section 4741.56 of the 202
Revised Code. 203

Sec. 4741.55. The state veterinary medical licensing board 204
shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly 205
describing the operations of the veterinarian student debt 206
assistance program during the previous biennium. The board shall 207
submit the report by the first day of September of each odd- 208
numbered calendar year and shall include all of the following 209
information in the report: 210

(A) The total number of veterinarians who applied to 211
participate in the program within the prior twenty-four months; 212

(B) The total amount of money awarded to program 213
participants within the prior twenty-four months; 214

(C) The names of the participants who entered into a 215
contract with the board in accordance with section 4741.54 of 216
the Revised Code within the prior twenty-four months; 217

(D) Any other information the board determines to be 218

pertinent. 219

Sec. 4741.56. (A) There is hereby created the veterinary 220
student debt assistance fund in the state treasury to be used by 221
the state veterinary medical licensing board for the 222
implementation and administration of sections 4741.50 to 4741.57 223
of the Revised Code. 224

(B) The fund shall consist of all of the following: 225

(1) Money transferred into the fund from the occupational 226
licensing and regulatory fund in accordance with section 4743.05 227
of the Revised Code; 228

(2) Money received from gifts, donations, and bequests; 229

(3) Damages collected from program participants who fail 230
to fulfill their service obligations; 231

(4) Any other money contributed to the fund. 232

Sec. 4741.57. On August 1, 2021, and every two years 233
thereafter, the state veterinary medical licensing board shall 234
certify to the director of budget and management the amount 235
resulting from the following formula: 236

0.9 X {(the board's total revenue credited to the occupational 237
licensing and regulatory fund during the previous biennium) - 238
[(the board's amount of actual expenditures during the first 239
fiscal year of the previous biennium) + (the amount appropriated 240
to the board during the second fiscal year of the previous 241
biennium)]}. 242

Sec. 4743.05. (A) Except as otherwise provided in sections 243
4701.20, 4723.062, 4723.082, 4729.65, 4781.121, and 4781.28 of 244
the Revised Code, all money collected under Chapters 3773., 245
4701., 4703., 4709., 4713., 4715., 4717., 4723., 4725., 4729., 246

4732., 4733., 4734., 4736., 4741., 4744., 4747., 4753., 4755., 247
4757., 4758., 4771., 4775., 4779., and 4781. of the Revised Code 248
shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the 249
occupational licensing and regulatory fund, which is hereby 250
created for use in administering such chapters. 251

(B) At the end of each quarter, the director of budget and 252
management shall transfer from the occupational licensing and 253
regulatory fund to the nurse education assistance fund created 254
in section 3333.28 of the Revised Code the amount certified to 255
the director under division (B) of section 4723.08 of the 256
Revised Code. 257

(C) At the end of each quarter, the director shall 258
transfer from the occupational licensing and regulatory fund to 259
the certified public accountant education assistance fund 260
created in section 4701.26 of the Revised Code the amount 261
certified to the director under division (H) (2) of section 262
4701.10 of the Revised Code. 263

(D) On August 30, 2021, and every two years thereafter, 264
the director shall transfer from the occupational licensing and 265
regulatory fund to the veterinary student debt assistance fund 266
created in section 4741.56 of the Revised Code the amount 267
certified to the director under section 4741.57 of the Revised 268
Code. 269

Section 2. That existing section 4743.05 of the Revised 270
Code is hereby repealed. 271