

As Passed by the Senate

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Sub. H. B. No. 67

Representatives Brinkman, Kelly

Cosponsors: Representatives Smith, R., Becker, Lanese, Riedel, Roemer, Scherer, Lepore-Hagan, Seitz, Plummer, Galonski, Manning, G., Abrams, Edwards, Jones, Lightbody, Sheehy, Stein, Sweeney, Carfagna, Carruthers, Crossman, Fraizer, Ghanbari, Hoops, Patterson, Rogers, Russo

Senators Antonio, Blessing, Brenner, Burke, Craig, Dolan, Fedor, Gavarone, Hackett, Hoagland, Huffman, S., Johnson, Kunze, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Peterson, Roegner, Rulli, Schuring, Thomas, Wilson, Yuko

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 18
laboratory expenses, for specific purposes and in amounts 19
determined to be reasonable by the board; 20

(c) Room and board, in an amount determined to be 21
reasonable by the board. 22

(2) "Educational loan" includes the principal and interest 23
of a government or other educational loan used to pay 24
educational expenses. 25

(B) There is hereby created the veterinarian student debt 26
assistance program. Under the program, the state veterinary 27
medical licensing board, by means of a contract entered into 28
under section 4741.54 of the Revised Code, may agree to repay 29
all or part of any educational loans taken out by a veterinarian 30
for educational expenses. The board shall operate the program in 31
accordance with sections 4741.50 to 4741.57 of the Revised Code. 32

Sec. 4741.51. (A) The state veterinary medical licensing 33
board, in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 34
shall adopt rules necessary to implement and administer the 35
veterinarian student debt assistance program. 36

(B) Rules adopted under division (A) of this section shall 37
do all of the following: 38

(1) Establish procedures for the selection of veterinarian 39
student debt assistance recipients, including the development of 40
a lottery system for selecting who, from the list of eligible 41

veterinarians, will receive assistance. The rules shall require 42
that the selection of recipients occur in each odd-numbered 43
calendar year. 44

(2) Provide for a method to determine the amount that each 45
recipient of veterinarian student debt assistance receives if 46
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. The rules also shall 60
require each recipient of veterinarian student debt assistance 61
to submit information to the board that details the charitable 62
veterinarian services completed by the veterinarian. 63

(4) Establish the minimum amount of time that a 64
veterinarian must have performed charitable veterinarian 65
services to be eligible to apply to the program. The number of 66
hours shall be not less than twelve. 67

(5) Establish the minimum period of time, not to exceed 68
two years, that a veterinarian must agree to reside in this 69
state under a contract entered into under section 4741.54 of the 70
Revised Code; 71

(6) Provide for the inclusion of information regarding the 72
program on application forms for both an initial veterinary 73
license and a renewal of a veterinary license; 74

(7) Establish any other procedures and requirements that 75
the board determines is necessary to administer and implement 76
the program. 77

Sec. 4741.52. (A) A veterinarian who meets all of the 78
following requirements is eligible to apply for participation in 79
the veterinarian student debt assistance program: 80

(1) The veterinarian is a citizen of the United States, a 81
national of the United States, or a permanent resident of the 82
United States. 83

(2) The veterinarian is licensed under this chapter and 84
has been engaged in the practice or instruction of veterinary 85
medicine in this state for more than six months prior to 86
submitting an application for veterinarian student debt 87
assistance. 88

(3) The veterinarian has taken out an educational loan. 89

(4) The educational loan was used for educational expenses 90
that were incurred while the veterinarian was enrolled in a 91
veterinary college. 92

(5) The veterinarian has performed charitable veterinarian 93
services in accordance with rules adopted under section 4741.51 94
of the Revised Code. 95

(6) The veterinarian is not a member of the state 96
veterinary medical licensing board at the time the application 97
is submitted under division (B) of this section. 98

(7) The veterinarian is not under contract with the board 99

under section 4741.54 of the Revised Code and has not been under 100
contract with the board under that section within one year prior 101
to submitting an application. 102

(B) A veterinarian shall submit an application for 103
participation in the veterinarian student debt assistance 104
program to the state veterinary medical licensing board on a 105
form that the board prescribes. The veterinarian shall submit 106
the following information with an application: 107

(1) The veterinarian's name, permanent address or address 108
at which the veterinarian is currently residing if different 109
from the permanent address, and telephone number; 110

(2) The veterinary college the veterinarian attended and 111
the dates of attendance; 112

(3) A summary and verification of the educational expenses 113
for which the veterinarian seeks reimbursement under the 114
program; 115

(4) Verification of the veterinarian's authorization under 116
this chapter to practice veterinary medicine; 117

(5) Verification that the veterinarian is a citizen of the 118
United States, a national of the United States, or a permanent 119
resident of the United States; 120

(6) A statement attesting that the veterinarian performed 121
charitable veterinarian services in accordance with rules 122
adopted under section 4741.51 of the Revised Code; 123

(7) Any other information the board determines is 124
necessary and appropriate. 125

Sec. 4741.53. (A) If the veterinarian student debt 126
assistance fund created in section 4741.56 of the Revised Code 127

contains sufficient money and the general assembly has 128
appropriated funds for the veterinarian student debt assistance 129
program, the state veterinary medical licensing board may 130
approve a veterinarian for participation in the program if the 131
board finds that the veterinarian is eligible for participation 132
in the program. By the first day of June of each odd-numbered 133
calendar year, the board shall compile a list of all 134
veterinarians who applied in accordance with section 4741.52 of 135
the Revised Code. 136

(B) The state veterinary medical licensing board shall 137
select eligible veterinarians to receive veterinarian student 138
debt assistance in accordance with the lottery system 139
established in rules adopted under section 4741.51 of the 140
Revised Code. 141

(C) Upon selection of a veterinarian, the board shall 142
notify and enter into discussions with the veterinarian. The 143
object of the discussions is to determine if the veterinarian 144
agrees to do both of the following: 145

(1) Perform charitable veterinarian services in this state 146
in an amount and for a duration of time established in rules 147
adopted under section 4741.51 of the Revised Code; 148

(2) Reside in this state for a minimum duration of time 149
established in rules adopted under section 4741.51 of the 150
Revised Code after the receipt of veterinarian student debt 151
assistance. 152

If, after discussions, the veterinarian so agrees, the 153
veterinarian shall prepare, sign, and deliver to the board a 154
letter of intent stipulating the agreed to terms. 155

(D) If the veterinarian does not prepare, sign, and 156

deliver the letter of intent to the board within thirty days of 157
receiving notice under division (C) of this section, the 158
veterinarian forfeits their acceptance into the program and the 159
board shall select another veterinarian for participation in the 160
program. 161

Sec. 4741.54. (A) After signing a letter of intent under 162
section 4741.53 of the Revised Code, a veterinarian and the 163
state veterinary medical licensing board may enter into a 164
contract, for not more than two years, for the veterinarian's 165
participation in the veterinary student debt assistance program. 166
A lending institution also may be a party to the contract. 167

(B) The contract shall include all of the following 168
obligations: 169

(1) The veterinarian agrees to perform charitable 170
veterinarian services in this state in a manner and for a time 171
and duration specified in the contract. 172

(2) The veterinarian agrees to continue to reside in this 173
state for a duration of time specified in the contract. 174

(3) The board agrees to repay, so long as the veterinarian 175
performs the obligations agreed to under divisions (B) (1) and 176
(2) of this section, all or part of an educational loan taken by 177
the veterinarian in an amount and under terms specified in the 178
contract. 179

(4) The veterinarian agrees to pay the board damages in an 180
amount specified in the contract, up to the amount the board 181
awarded the veterinarian, if the veterinarian fails to complete 182
the obligations agreed to under divisions (B) (1) and (2) of this 183
section. 184

(5) An assignment to the board of the veterinarian's duty 185

to pay the principal and interest of a government or other 186
educational loan taken by the veterinarian for expenses 187
described in section 4741.50 of the Revised Code; 188

(6) The terms of the assignment under division (B) (5) of 189
this section, which shall set forth the total amount of 190
principal and interest to be paid, an amortization schedule, and 191
the amount of each payment to be made under the schedule. 192

(C) The contract may include any other terms agreed to by 193
the parties. 194

(D) Not later than the thirty-first day of January each 195
year, the board shall cause to be mailed to each veterinarian to 196
whom or on whose behalf veterinary student debt assistance is 197
provided a statement showing the amount of principal and 198
interest repaid by the board in the preceding year pursuant to 199
the contract. The board shall send the statement by ordinary 200
mail with address correction and forwarding requested in the 201
manner prescribed by the United States postal service. 202

(E) The board shall deposit money collected from damages 203
under division (B) (4) of this section into the veterinary 204
student debt assistance fund created in section 4741.56 of the 205
Revised Code. 206

Sec. 4741.55. The state veterinary medical licensing board 207
shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly 208
describing the operations of the veterinarian student debt 209
assistance program during the previous biennium. The board shall 210
submit the report by the first day of September of each odd- 211
numbered calendar year and shall include all of the following 212
information in the report: 213

(A) The total number of veterinarians who applied to 214

<u>participate in the program within the prior twenty-four months;</u>	215
<u>(B) The total amount of money awarded to program</u>	216
<u>participants within the prior twenty-four months;</u>	217
<u>(C) The names of the participants who entered into a</u>	218
<u>contract with the board in accordance with section 4741.54 of</u>	219
<u>the Revised Code within the prior twenty-four months;</u>	220
<u>(D) Any other information the board determines to be</u>	221
<u>pertinent.</u>	222
<u>Sec. 4741.56. (A) There is hereby created the veterinary</u>	223
<u>student debt assistance fund in the state treasury to be used by</u>	224
<u>the state veterinary medical licensing board for the</u>	225
<u>implementation and administration of sections 4741.50 to 4741.57</u>	226
<u>of the Revised Code.</u>	227
<u>(B) The fund shall consist of all of the following:</u>	228
<u>(1) Money transferred into the fund from the occupational</u>	229
<u>licensing and regulatory fund in accordance with section 4743.05</u>	230
<u>of the Revised Code;</u>	231
<u>(2) Money received from gifts, donations, and bequests;</u>	232
<u>(3) Damages collected from program participants who fail</u>	233
<u>to fulfill their service obligations;</u>	234
<u>(4) Any other money contributed to the fund.</u>	235
<u>Sec. 4741.57. On August 1, 2021, and every two years</u>	236
<u>thereafter, the state veterinary medical licensing board shall</u>	237
<u>certify to the director of budget and management the amount</u>	238
<u>resulting from the following formula:</u>	239
<u>0.9 X {(the board's total revenue credited to the occupational</u>	240
<u>licensing and regulatory fund during the previous biennium) -</u>	241

[(the board's amount of actual expenditures during the first 242
fiscal year of the previous biennium) + (the amount appropriated 243
to the board during the second fiscal year of the previous 244
biennium)]}. 245

Sec. 4743.05. (A) Except as otherwise provided in sections 246
4701.20, 4723.062, 4723.082, 4729.65, 4781.121, and 4781.28 of 247
the Revised Code, all money collected under Chapters 3773., 248
4701., 4703., 4709., 4713., 4715., 4717., 4723., 4725., 4729., 249
4732., 4733., 4734., 4736., 4741., 4744., 4747., 4753., 4755., 250
4757., 4758., 4771., 4775., 4779., and 4781. of the Revised Code 251
shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the 252
occupational licensing and regulatory fund, which is hereby 253
created for use in administering such chapters. 254

(B) At the end of each quarter, the director of budget and 255
management shall transfer from the occupational licensing and 256
regulatory fund to the nurse education assistance fund created 257
in section 3333.28 of the Revised Code the amount certified to 258
the director under division (B) of section 4723.08 of the 259
Revised Code. 260

(C) At the end of each quarter, the director shall 261
transfer from the occupational licensing and regulatory fund to 262
the certified public accountant education assistance fund 263
created in section 4701.26 of the Revised Code the amount 264
certified to the director under division (H)(2) of section 265
4701.10 of the Revised Code. 266

(D) On August 30, 2021, and every two years thereafter, 267
the director shall transfer from the occupational licensing and 268
regulatory fund to the veterinary student debt assistance fund 269
created in section 4741.56 of the Revised Code the amount 270
certified to the director under section 4741.57 of the Revised 271

Code. 272

Section 2. That existing section 4743.05 of the Revised 273
Code is hereby repealed. 274