

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 70

By: Ballenger and Crutchfield
of the Senate

6 and

7 Hyman of the House

8
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 (Professions and occupations - Large Animal

11 Veterinarian Incentive Act - codification -

12 effective date.

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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.31 of Title 59, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Large Animal
21 Veterinarian Incentive Act".

22 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.32 of Title 59, unless there
24 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 As used in the Large Animal Veterinarian Incentive Act:

2 1. "Veterinary Center" means the Center for Veterinary Health
3 Sciences at Oklahoma State University;

4 2. "Program" means the veterinary training program for rural
5 Oklahoma established pursuant to Section 3 of this act; and

6 3. "Program agreement" means an agreement to meet all the
7 obligations provided in Section 3 of this act by a person who is a
8 first-year veterinary student at the Veterinary Center or currently
9 practicing large animal veterinarian in exchange for the benefits
10 provided in Section 3 of this act.

11 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 698.33 of Title 59, unless there
13 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. There is hereby established the veterinary training program
15 for rural Oklahoma to be administered by the Oklahoma State
16 University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. The program shall
17 be developed and implemented in order to provide encouragement,
18 opportunities, and incentives for persons pursuing a veterinary
19 medicine degree at Oklahoma State University to locate their
20 veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma communities, and receive
21 specialized training targeted to meet the needs of livestock
22 producers in rural Oklahoma communities.

23 B. Subject to available funds, each year the Veterinary Center
24 may enter into program agreements with up to three first-year

1 veterinary students or currently practicing large animal
2 veterinarians with qualifying school loans, as determined by the
3 Veterinary Center. Preference shall be given to those students and
4 large animal veterinarians who are Oklahoma residents and who agree
5 to serve in a community as described in paragraph 3 of subsection D
6 of this section, which is determined by the Veterinary Center to be
7 an underserved area for the practice of veterinary medicine.

8 C. Subject to available funds, each student or large animal
9 veterinarian entering into a program agreement under this section
10 shall receive assistance in an amount not to exceed Twenty Thousand
11 Dollars (\$20,000.00) per year for not more than four (4) years for
12 tuition, books, supplies, and other school expenses, and travel and
13 training expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary
14 medicine degree. Upon satisfaction of all commitments under the
15 provisions of the agreement and the provisions of this section, the
16 financial obligations pursuant to this section shall be deemed
17 satisfied and forgiven.

18 D. Each program agreement shall require that the person
19 receiving the assistance:

20 1. Complete the veterinary medicine degree program at the
21 Veterinary Center;

22 2. Complete all requirements in public health, livestock
23 biosecurity, foreign animal disease diagnosis, regulatory veterinary
24 medicine and zoonotic disease, and an externship and mentoring

1 requirement with a licensed, accredited veterinarian in rural
2 Oklahoma as required by the Veterinary Center;

3 3. Engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
4 any community in Oklahoma which has a population not exceeding
5 twenty-five thousand (25,000) as determined by the most recent
6 Federal Decennial Census at the time the person entered into the
7 program agreement for a period of at least twelve (12) continuous
8 months for each separate year a student receives assistance under
9 the program, unless the obligation is otherwise satisfied as
10 provided in this section. If, after the date a program agreement
11 was entered into by the parties, a community no longer meets the
12 maximum population requirements provided in this paragraph, a person
13 engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine pursuant
14 to the program agreement shall continue to practice in that
15 designated community; and

16 4. Commence the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
17 that community within ninety (90) days after completion of the
18 person's degree program, or if the person enters a postdegree
19 training program, such as a graduate school or internship or
20 residency program, within ninety (90) days after completion of the
21 postdegree training program.

22 E. Upon the failure of a person to satisfy the obligation to
23 engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
24 accordance with the provisions of this section, that person shall

1 repay to the Veterinary Center, within ninety (90) days of the
2 failure, the amount equal to the assistance provided to the person
3 less a prorated amount based on any periods of practice of
4 veterinary medicine meeting the requirements of this section, plus
5 interest at the prime rate of interest plus two percent (2%) from
6 the date the assistance accrued. The interest shall be compounded
7 annually.

8 F. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
9 medicine in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be
10 postponed during:

11 1. Any period of temporary medical disability during which the
12 person obligated is unable to practice veterinary medicine due to
13 the disability; and

14 2. Any other period of postponement agreed to or determined in
15 accordance with criteria agreed to in the practice agreement.

16 G. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
17 medicine in accordance with the provisions of the agreement and this
18 section shall be satisfied:

19 1. If the obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
20 medicine in accordance with the agreement has been completed;

21 2. If, because of permanent disability, the person obligated is
22 unable to practice veterinary medicine; or

23 3. The person who is obligated dies.
24

1 H. The Veterinary Center may adopt additional provisions,
2 requirements, or conditions to participate in this program as are
3 practicable and appropriate to accomplish the provisions of the
4 program or may be required for the implementation or administration
5 of the program, and are not inconsistent with the provisions of this
6 section.

7 I. The Veterinary Center shall not enter into any program
8 agreements pursuant to the provisions of this section after July 1,
9 2018. All agreements entered into prior to such date shall be
10 valid.

11 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2008.

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