

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Committee Substitute for
ENGROSSED
Senate Bill No. 70

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 70 - By:
BALLENGER AND CRUTCHFIELD of the Senate and SHOEMAKE, HYMAN, ARMES,
DEWITT, DENNEY, HICKMAN, MCNIEL, RENEGAR AND RICHARDSON of the
House.

(Professions and occupations - Large Animal Veterinarian Incentive Act –
codification -

effective date.

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

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

4 This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Large Animal Veterinarian
5 Incentive Act”.

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

9 As used in the Large Animal Veterinarian Incentive Act:

1 1. “Veterinary Center” means the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at
2 Oklahoma State University;

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

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

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

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

19 B. Subject to available funds, each year the Veterinary Center may enter into
20 program agreements with up to three first-year veterinary students or currently
21 practicing large animal veterinarians with qualifying school loans, as determined by the
22 Veterinary Center. Preference shall be given to those students and large animal

1 veterinarians who are Oklahoma residents and who agree to serve in a community as
2 described in paragraph 3 of subsection D of this section, which is determined by the
3 Veterinary Center to be an underserved area for the practice of veterinary medicine.

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

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

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

13 2. Complete all requirements in public health, livestock biosecurity, foreign animal
14 disease diagnosis, regulatory veterinary medicine and zoonotic disease, and an
15 externship and mentoring requirement with a licensed, accredited veterinarian in rural
16 Oklahoma as required by the Veterinary Center;

17 3. Engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in any community in
18 Oklahoma which has a population not exceeding twenty-five thousand (25,000) as
19 determined by the most recent Federal Decennial Census at the time the person entered
20 into the program agreement for a period of at least twelve (12) continuous months for
21 each separate year a student receives assistance under the program, unless the
22 obligation is otherwise satisfied as provided in this section. If, after the date a program

1 agreement was entered into by the parties, a community no longer meets the maximum
2 population requirements provided in this paragraph, a person engaging in the full-time
3 practice of veterinary medicine pursuant to the program agreement shall continue to
4 practice in that designated community; and

5 4. Commence the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in that community
6 within ninety (90) days after completion of the person's degree program, or if the person
7 enters a postdegree training program, such as a graduate school or internship or
8 residency program, within ninety (90) days after completion of the postdegree training
9 program.

10 E. Upon the failure of a person to satisfy the obligation to engage in the full-time
11 practice of veterinary medicine in accordance with the provisions of this section, that
12 person shall repay to the Veterinary Center, within ninety (90) days of the failure, the
13 amount equal to the assistance provided to the person less a prorated amount based on
14 any periods of practice of veterinary medicine meeting the requirements of this section,
15 plus interest at the prime rate of interest plus two percent (2%) from the date the
16 assistance accrued. The interest shall be compounded annually.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 3. The person who is obligated dies.

8 H. The Veterinary Center may adopt additional provisions, requirements, or
9 conditions to participate in this program as are practicable and appropriate to
10 accomplish the provisions of the program or may be required for the implementation or
11 administration of the program, and are not inconsistent with the provisions of this
12 section.

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

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

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, dated 04-08-
18 08 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.