

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1290

By: Shoemake

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to professions and occupations;
8 amending Section 3, Chapter 338, O.S.L. 2008 (59 O.S.
9 Supp. 2008, Section 698.33), which relates to the
10 veterinary training program for rural Oklahoma;
11 creating the Large Animal Veterinary Incentive Fund;
12 providing for administration; stating purpose;
13 providing for expenditures; and providing an
14 effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 338, O.S.L.
17 2008 (59 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 698.33), is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 Section 698.33 A. There is hereby established the veterinary
20 training program for rural Oklahoma to be administered by the
21 Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.
22 The program shall be developed and implemented in order to provide
23 encouragement, opportunities, and incentives for persons pursuing a
24 veterinary medicine degree at Oklahoma State University to locate
their veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma communities, and receive

1 specialized training targeted to meet the needs of livestock
2 producers in rural Oklahoma communities.

3 B. Subject to available funds, each year the Veterinary Center
4 may enter into program agreements with up to three first-year
5 veterinary students or currently practicing large animal
6 veterinarians with qualifying school loans, as determined by the
7 Veterinary Center. Preference shall be given to those students and
8 large animal veterinarians who are Oklahoma residents and who agree
9 to serve in a community as described in paragraph 3 of subsection D
10 of this section, which is determined by the Veterinary Center to be
11 an underserved area for the practice of veterinary medicine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 residency program, within ninety (90) days after completion of the
2 postdegree training program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 3. The person who is obligated dies.

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

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

16 J. 1. There is created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
17 for the Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health
18 Sciences to be designated the "Large Animal Veterinary Incentive
19 Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal
20 year limitations, and shall consist of monies received from any
21 source of contributions, public or private, including federal and
22 state funds unless otherwise provided by federal law or regulation.

23 2. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are
24 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Veterinary

1 Center for the purposes of funding the program established in this
2 section. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants
3 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by
4 law with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

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