

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1766

5 By: Representatives Gillam, Biviano, Pierce, J. Burris, Webb, Wren, Rice, Dale, J. Roebuck, Branscum,
6 Lampkin, Love, McLean, Eubanks, T. Thompson, Perry, Lenderman, Ratliff, Stubblefield, Carter,
7 Summers, Wardlaw, Westerman
8 By: Senators J. Dismang, D. Wyatt
9

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO CREATE A LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR OUT-OF-
12 STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION AT THE MISSISSIPPI
13 STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; TO
14 PROVIDE FOR LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR VETERINARIANS WHO
15 PRACTICE FOOD SUPPLY VETERINARY MEDICINE IN ARKANSAS
16 FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

19 TO CREATE A LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR
20 OUT-OF-STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION
21 AT THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
22 COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND TO
23 PROVIDE LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR
24 VETERINARIANS IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES.
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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 81, Subchapter 11 is amended
31 to add additional sections to read as follows:

32 6-81-1105. Veterinary medicine loans.

33 (a) As used in this section:

34 (1) "Food animal" means bovine, porcine, ovine, camelid, cervid,
35 poultry, and any other species determined by the Arkansas State Veterinarian;

36 (2) "Food supply veterinary medicine" means all aspects of



1 veterinary medicine's involvement in food supply systems, from traditional
2 agricultural production to consumption;

3 (3) "Loan repayment" means a payment made to a recipient upon
4 completion of yearly requirements;

5 (4) "Participating institution" means the Mississippi State
6 University College of Veterinary Medicine;

7 (5) "Practice of food supply veterinary medicine" means a
8 corporate or private veterinary practice with a minimum of thirty percent
9 (30%) of the practice devoted to food animal medicine or mixed animal
10 medicine located in rural areas; and

11 (6) "Qualified recipient" means a student who:

12 (A) Is a resident of the State of Arkansas;

13 (B) Has completed a veterinarian medicine degree program
14 at a participating institution;

15 (C) Is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in
16 Arkansas and

17 (D) Has been certified under § 6-4-106 by the Department
18 of Higher Education as qualified to participate in the loan repayment program
19 authorized by this section and consistent with § 6-4-106.

20 (b) The department shall institute a loan repayment program to:

21 (1) Benefit Arkansas residents; and

22 (2) Assist with the repayment of federal student loans for
23 students that attended a participating institution and completed the
24 requirements for loan repayment.

25 (d)(1) The department shall administer the program.

26 (2)(A) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
27 section and address the terms and conditions of loan repayments made under
28 this section.

29 (B) The terms of the loan repayment shall include without
30 limitation:

31 (i) A requirement to practice food supply veterinary
32 medicine for five (5) consecutive years; and

33 (ii) Conditions for loan repayment under § 6-81-
34 1106.

35 (C) The loan repayment amount shall not exceed the amount
36 of tuition assistance provided under the Southern Regional Education Compact

1 program.

2 (d) The department shall:

3 (1) Allocate the number of qualified recipients to receive loan
 4 repayment based on the amount of funds appropriated;

5 (2) Determine the necessary procedures for awarding the loan
 6 repayments if the number of eligible applicants and recipients exceeds the
 7 funding available;

8 (3)(A) Distribute loan repayments according to the allocations
 9 made by the department;

10 (B) The department shall not be obligated to make a loan
 11 repayment unless funds are appropriated.

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 13 6-81-1106. Student loan repayment.

14 (a) As used in this section:

15 (1) "Food animal" means bovine, porcine, ovine, camelid, cervid,
 16 poultry, and any other species determined by the Arkansas State Veterinarian;

17 (2) "Food supply veterinary medicine" means all aspects of
 18 veterinary medicine's involvement in food supply systems, from traditional
 19 agricultural production to consumption; and

20 (3) "Practice of food supply veterinary medicine" means a
 21 corporate or private veterinary practice with a minimum of thirty percent
 22 (30%) of the practice devoted to food animal medicine or mixed animal
 23 medicine located in rural areas.

24 (b) The Department of Higher Education shall repay federal student
 25 loans yearly for a maximum of five (5) consecutive years if the recipient:

26 (1) Practices food supply veterinary medicine in Arkansas within
 27 ninety (90) days after completion of:

28 (A) The professional degree program for which the loan was
 29 made;

30 (B) An internship program; or

31 (C) The professional degree program for which the loan was
 32 made and an internship program; and

33 (2) Maintains the practice of food supply veterinary medicine in
 34 Arkansas for a minimum of one (1) year for each year of loan repayment up to
 35 five (5) years with all five (5) years consecutive.

36 (c) A recipient that fails to satisfy the obligation to engage in the

1 practice of food supply veterinary medicine for one (1) year in a five (5)
2 consecutive year period shall not receive the loan repayment amount.

3 (d) The obligation to engage in the practice of food supply veterinary
4 medicine for a five (5) consecutive year period shall be postponed during
5 any:

6 (1) Period of temporary medical disability if the recipient is
7 unable to practice veterinary medicine;

8 (2) Period of military service under § 6-61-112; or

9 (3) Other period of postponement agreed to by the department.

10 (e) The department shall adopt rules to administer this section.

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