

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1367

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a loan repayment program regarding the provision of veterinary services in shortage situations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2003

Mr. PICKERING (for himself and Mr. TURNER of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a loan repayment program regarding the provision of veterinary services in shortage situations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Veterinary
5 Medical Services Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**
7 **REGARDING VETERINARY MEDICINE.**

8 The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
9 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is

1 amended by inserting after section 1415 the following new
2 section:

3 **“SEC. 1415A. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.**

4 “(a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall carry out a pro-
5 gram of entering into agreements with veterinarians under
6 which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a period of
7 time as determined by the Secretary and specified in the
8 agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage sit-
9 uations. For each year of such service under an agreement
10 under this subsection, the Secretary shall pay an amount,
11 as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agree-
12 ment, of the principal and interest of qualifying edu-
13 cational loans of the veterinarians.

14 “(b) VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS.—In de-
15 termining ‘veterinarian shortage situations’ the Secretary
16 may consider the following:

17 “(1) Urban or rural areas that the Secretary
18 determines have a shortage of veterinarians.

19 “(2) Population groups that the Secretary de-
20 termines have a shortage of veterinarians.

21 “(3) Areas of veterinary practice that the Sec-
22 retary determines have a shortage of veterinarians.

23 “(4) Other factors that the Secretary considers
24 to be relevant.

25 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

1 “(1) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
2 may carry out this program directly or enter into
3 agreements with another Federal agency or other
4 service provider to assist in the administration of
5 this program.

6 “(2) BREACH REMEDIES.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Agreements with pro-
8 gram participants shall provide remedies for
9 any breach of an agreement by a participant,
10 including repayment of financial assistance re-
11 ceived in proportion to the time served in the
12 veterinary shortage situation.

13 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may estab-
14 lish a waiver process of this repayment obliga-
15 tion in the event of extreme hardship, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary.

17 “(C) AMOUNTS RECOVERED.—Funds re-
18 covered under this subsection shall be credited
19 to the account available to carry out this sec-
20 tion and shall remain available until expended.

21 “(3) QUALIFYING EDUCATIONAL LOANS.—Loan
22 repayments provided under this section may consist
23 of payments on behalf of participating individuals of
24 the principal, interest, and related expenses on gov-
25 ernment and commercial loans received by the indi-

1 vidual for attendance of the individual at an accred-
2 ited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a de-
3 gree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equiva-
4 lent, which loans were made for—

5 “(A) tuition expenses;

6 “(B) all other reasonable educational ex-
7 penses, including fees, books, and laboratory ex-
8 penses, incurred by the individual; or

9 “(C) reasonable living expenses as deter-
10 mined by the Secretary.

11 “(4) REPAYMENT SCHEDULE.—The Secretary
12 may enter into an agreement with the holder of any
13 loan for which payments are made under this section
14 to establish a schedule for the making of such pay-
15 ments.

16 “(5) TAX LIABILITY.—In addition to making
17 educational loan repayments, the Secretary shall
18 make such additional payments to participants as
19 the Secretary determines to be appropriate for the
20 purpose of providing reimbursements to participants
21 for individual tax liability resulting from participa-
22 tion in the program under this section.

1 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out this sec-
3 tion such sums as may be necessary.”.

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