

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3519

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BACA, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MASSA, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. WALZ, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. LATTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, 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 “Veterinarian Services
5 Investment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
3 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after
4 section 1415A (7 U.S.C. 3151a) the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 1415B. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

7 “(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary
8 shall carry out a program to make competitive
9 grants to qualified entities described in paragraph
10 (2) for the purpose of developing, implementing, and
11 sustaining veterinary services.

12 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligi-
13 ble for a grant under this subsection, a qualified en-
14 tity must carry out programs or activities that the
15 Secretary determines will—

16 “(A) substantially relieve veterinary short-
17 age situations;

18 “(B) support or facilitate private veteri-
19 nary practices engaged in public health activi-
20 ties; or

21 “(C) support or facilitate practices of vet-
22 erinarians who are participating in or have suc-
23 cessfully completed a service requirement under
24 section 1415A.

25 “(b) AWARD PROCESSES AND PREFERENCES.—

1 “(1) APPLICATION, EVALUATION, AND INPUT
2 PROCESSES.—In administering the grant program
3 under this section, the Secretary shall use an appro-
4 priate application and evaluation process and seek
5 the input of interested person.

6 “(2) GRANT PREFERENCES.—In selecting quali-
7 fied entities to receive a grant under this section, the
8 Secretary shall give a preference to qualified entities
9 that—

10 “(A) document coordination between or
11 with—

12 “(i) a State, national, allied, or re-
13 gional veterinary organization, a specialty
14 board, or veterinary medical association
15 recognized by the American Veterinary
16 Medical Association;

17 “(ii) the applicable accredited veteri-
18 nary education institution, or accredited
19 department of veterinary science, or de-
20 partment of comparative medicine; or

21 “(iii) the applicable State veterinarian
22 or animal health official (or its equivalent);
23 and

1 “(B) will use the grant funds to help to
2 meet veterinary workforce or food protection
3 needs.

4 “(3) ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.—When
5 awarding grants under this section, the Secretary
6 may develop additional preferences by taking into
7 account the amount of funds available for grants as
8 well as the purposes for which the grant funds will
9 be used.

10 “(4) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—
11 Sections 1413B, 1462(a), 1469(a)(3), and 1469(c)
12 shall apply to the administration of the grant pro-
13 gram under this section.

14 “(c) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(1) RECIPIENT SHARE.—A grant recipient
16 shall provide matching non-Federal funds, either in
17 cash or in-kind support, in an amount equal to not
18 less than 50 percent of the Federal funds provided
19 in a grant under this section.

20 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may establish, by
21 regulation, conditions under which the cost-sharing
22 requirements of paragraph (1) may be reduced or
23 waived.

24 “(d) USE OF GRANT TO RELIEVE VETERINARY
25 SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY

1 SERVICES.—Funds provided by grants under this section
2 may be used for the following purposes to relieve veteri-
3 nary shortage situations and support veterinary services:

4 “(1) Grants to promote recruitment, placement,
5 and retention of veterinarians, veterinary techni-
6 cians, students of veterinary medicine, and students
7 of veterinary technology.

8 “(2) Grants to assist veterinarians with estab-
9 lishing or expanding practices for the purpose of
10 equipping veterinary offices, sharing in the overhead
11 costs of such practices, or to the establishment of
12 mobile veterinary facilities where at least a portion
13 of such facilities will address education or extension
14 needs.

15 “(3) Financial assistance for veterinary stu-
16 dents, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and resi-
17 dents, and veterinary technician students to attend
18 training programs in food safety or food animal
19 medicine to cover expenses other than tuition.

20 “(4) Programs establishing or expanding ac-
21 credited veterinary education programs, veterinary
22 residency and fellowship programs or veterinary in-
23 ternship and externship programs in coordination
24 with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

1 “(5) Programs for tele-veterinary medicine
2 where such practices shall at least in part contribute
3 to veterinary extension, education, or research.

4 “(6) Support the ability of the office or position
5 of a State veterinarian or animal health official to
6 coordinate veterinary services and food protection
7 issues described in the preceding paragraphs.

8 “(7) Assessments of veterinarian shortage situ-
9 ations and preparation of applications for designa-
10 tion as a shortage situation.

11 “(8) Programs in continuing education and ex-
12 tension, including distance-based education, for vet-
13 erinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health
14 professionals needed to strengthen veterinary pro-
15 grams and enhance food safety.

16 “(9) Faculty recruitment and retention pro-
17 grams at accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

18 “(10) Programs, in coordination with univer-
19 sities or local educational agencies, to encourage stu-
20 dents in secondary schools to pursue a career in vet-
21 erinary medicine or science professions.

22 “(e) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR
23 CONSTRUCTION.—Funds made available for grants under
24 this section shall not be used for the construction of a
25 new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, re-

1 modeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility,
2 including site grading and improvement and architect fees.

3 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATION.—

5 The term ‘veterinarian shortage situation’ means a
6 veterinarian shortage situation determined by the
7 Secretary under section 1415A(b).

8 “(2) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term ‘qualified
9 entity’ means the following:

10 “(A) A for-profit or nonprofit entity lo-
11 cated in the United States that operates a vet-
12 erinary clinic providing veterinary services—

13 “(i) in a rural area, as defined in sec-
14 tion 1393(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue
15 Code of 1986; or

16 “(ii) in response to a veterinarian
17 shortage situation.

18 “(B) A State, national, allied, or regional
19 veterinary organization or specialty board rec-
20 ognized by the American Veterinary Medical
21 Association.

22 “(C) A college or school of veterinary med-
23 icine accredited by the American Veterinary
24 Medical Association.

1 “(D) A university research foundation or
2 veterinary medical foundation.

3 “(E) A department of veterinary science or
4 department of comparative medicine accredited
5 by the Department of Education.

6 “(F) A State agricultural experiment sta-
7 tion.

8 “(G) A State, local, or tribal government
9 agency.

10 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
12 sums as are necessary to carry out this section for fiscal
13 year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

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