

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1943

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish scholarship and loan repayment programs regarding the provision of veterinary services in veterinarian shortage areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2001

Mr. PICKERING (for himself, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. POMBO, Mrs. THURMAN, and Mr. HILLIARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish scholarship and loan repayment programs regarding the provision of veterinary services in veterinarian shortage areas.

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 “Veterinary Health En-
5 hancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN RE-**
2 **PAYMENT PROGRAMS REGARDING VETERI-**
3 **NARY MEDICINE.**

4 Subpart III of part D of title III of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l et seq.) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following section:

7 **“SEC. 338M. SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PRO-**
8 **GRAMS REGARDING VETERINARY MEDICINE.**

9 “(a) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—The Secretary, act-
10 ing through the Administrator of the Health Resources
11 and Services Administration, shall establish a program of
12 entering into agreements with students under which the
13 Federal Government provides to the students scholarships
14 for attending schools of veterinary medicine in consider-
15 ation of the students agreeing to provide, for a period of
16 time specified in the agreement, veterinary services in vet-
17 erinarian shortage areas.

18 “(b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—The Secretary,
19 acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources
20 and Services Administration, shall carry out a program
21 of entering into agreements with veterinarians under
22 which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a period of
23 time specified in the agreement, veterinary services in vet-
24 erinarian shortage areas in consideration of the Federal
25 Government agreeing to repay, for each year of such serv-

1 ice, not more than \$35,000 of the principal and interest
2 of the educational loans of the veterinarians.

3 “(c) VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE AREAS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-
5 tion, the term ‘veterinarian shortage area’ means
6 any of the following:

7 “(A) An area in an urban or rural area
8 (which need not conform to the geographic
9 boundaries of a political subdivision and which
10 is a rational area for the delivery of veterinary
11 services) that the Secretary determines has a
12 shortage of veterinarians.

13 “(B) A population group that the Sec-
14 retary determines has such a shortage.

15 “(C) A public or nonprofit private medical
16 facility or other public facility that the Sec-
17 retary determines has such a shortage.

18 “(2) STATE PARTICIPATION.—In designating a
19 veterinarian shortage area in a State, the Secretary
20 shall consult with the chief veterinary-medicine offi-
21 cial of the State and with other appropriate entities
22 in the State, including representatives of schools of
23 veterinary medicine in the State; representatives of
24 State members of professional associations regarding

1 veterinary medicine; and representatives of large-animal
2 veterinarians in the State.

3 “(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may approve
5 an individual for participation in the program under
6 subsection (a) or (b) only if (in addition to the re-
7 quirements that apply under subsection (e)) the indi-
8 vidual has been approved by the chief veterinary-
9 medicine official of the State involved, after such of-
10 ficial consulted with appropriate entities in the State
11 regarding such approval, including representatives
12 specified in subsection (c)(2).

13 “(2) STATE INVOLVED.—For purposes of para-
14 graph (1), the State involved with respect to an indi-
15 vidual is the State described in subparagraph (A) or
16 (B) (as applicable), as follows:

17 “(A) In the case of the program under
18 subsection (a), the State in which the individual
19 attends or will attend a school of veterinary
20 medicine with a scholarship under the program.

21 “(B) In the case of the program under
22 subsection (b), the State that contains the vet-
23 erinarian shortage area for which the individual
24 will provide veterinary services under the pro-
25 gram.

1 “(e) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—

2 “(1) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—With respect to
3 the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Pro-
4 gram established in section 338A, the provisions of
5 this subpart that apply to such program shall, ex-
6 cept as determined by the Secretary to be incon-
7 sistent with subsection (a), apply to the program es-
8 tablished in subsection (a) in the same manner and
9 to the same extent as such provisions apply to the
10 National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program.

11 “(2) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—With re-
12 spect to the National Health Service Corps Loan
13 Repayment Program established in section 338B,
14 the provisions of this subpart that apply to such pro-
15 gram shall, except as determined by the Secretary to
16 be inconsistent with subsection (b), apply to the pro-
17 gram established in subsection (b) in the same man-
18 ner and to the same extent as such provisions apply
19 to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repay-
20 ment Program.

21 “(f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
22 term ‘school of veterinary medicine’ has the meaning given
23 such term in section 799B.

24 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—For the pur-
2 pose of carrying out this section with respect to the
3 program under subsection (a), there are authorized
4 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary
5 for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

6 “(2) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—For the
7 purpose of carrying out this section with respect to
8 the program under subsection (b), there are author-
9 ized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
10 essary for each of the fiscal years 2001 through
11 2005.”.

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