

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3519

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterinarian Services  
3 Investment Act”.

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

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

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

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary  
11 shall carry out a program to make competitive  
12 grants to qualified entities that engage in activities  
13 described in paragraph (2) for the purpose of devel-  
14 oping, implementing, and sustaining veterinary serv-  
15 ices.

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

20 “(A) substantially relieve veterinarian  
21 shortage situations;

22 “(B) support or facilitate private veteri-  
23 nary practices engaged in public health activi-  
24 ties; or

25 “(C) support or facilitate practices of vet-  
26 erinarians who are participating in or have suc-

1           cessfully completed a service requirement under  
2           section 1415A(a)(2).

3           “(b) AWARD PROCESSES AND PREFERENCES.—

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

9           “(2) GRANT PREFERENCES.—In the case of  
10          grants to be used for any of the purposes described  
11          in paragraphs (2) through (6) of subsection (c), the  
12          Secretary shall give a preference to the selection of  
13          qualified entities that document coordination be-  
14          tween or with other qualified entities regarding the  
15          applicable purpose.

16          “(3) ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.—When  
17          awarding grants under this section, the Secretary  
18          may develop additional preferences by taking into  
19          account the amount of funds available for grants as  
20          well as the purposes for which the grant funds will  
21          be used.

22          “(4) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—  
23          Sections 1413B, 1462(a), 1469(a)(3), 1469(c), and  
24          1470 shall apply to the administration of the grant  
25          program under this section.

1       “(c) USE OF GRANTS TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN  
2 SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY  
3 SERVICES.—Funds provided by grants under this section  
4 may be used for the following purposes to relieve veteri-  
5 narian shortage situations and support veterinary services:

6           “(1) Grants to assist veterinarians with estab-  
7 lishing or expanding practices for the purpose of  
8 equipping veterinary offices, sharing in the reason-  
9 able overhead costs of such practices (as determined  
10 by the Secretary), or establishing mobile veterinary  
11 facilities where at least a portion of such facilities  
12 will address education or extension needs.

13          “(2) Grants to promote recruitment (including  
14 programs in secondary schools), placement, and re-  
15 tention of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, stu-  
16 dents of veterinary medicine, and students of veteri-  
17 nary technology.

18          “(3) Grants for veterinary students, veterinary  
19 interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veteri-  
20 nary technician students to cover expenses (other  
21 than the types of expenses listed in 1415A(c)(5)) to  
22 attend training programs in food safety or food ani-  
23 mal medicine.

24          “(4) Grants establishing or expanding accred-  
25 ited veterinary education programs (including fac-

1       ulty recruitment and retention), veterinary residency  
2       and fellowship programs, or veterinary internship  
3       and externship programs in coordination with ac-  
4       credited colleges of veterinary medicine.

5               “(5) Grants for the assessment of veterinarian  
6       shortage situations and preparation of applications  
7       for designation as a shortage situation.

8               “(6) Grants in continuing education and exten-  
9       sion, including tele-veterinary medicine and other  
10      distance-based education, for veterinarians, veteri-  
11      nary technicians, and other health professionals  
12      needed to strengthen veterinary programs and en-  
13      hance food safety.

14      “(d)   SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN  
15   GRANTS.—

16              “(1) TERMS OF SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—  
17      Grants provided under this section for the purpose  
18      specified in subsection (c)(1) shall be subject to an  
19      agreement between the Secretary and the grant re-  
20      cipient that includes a required term of service for  
21      the recipient, as established by the Secretary. In es-  
22      tablishing such terms, the Secretary shall consider  
23      only—

24                      “(A) the amount of the grant awarded;

25                      and

1 “(B) the specific purpose of the grant.

2 “(2) BREACH REMEDIES.—An agreement under  
3 paragraph (1) shall provide remedies for any breach  
4 of the agreement by the grant recipient, including  
5 repayment or partial repayment of the grant funds,  
6 with interest. The Secretary may waive the repay-  
7 ment obligation in the event of extreme hardship or  
8 extreme need, as determined by the Secretary.

9 “(3) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECOVERED.—  
10 Funds recovered under paragraph (2) shall be cred-  
11 ited to the account available to carry out this section  
12 and shall remain available until expended.

13 “(e) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

23 “(f) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR  
24 CONSTRUCTION.—Funds made available for grants under  
25 this section shall not be used for the construction of a

1 new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, re-  
2 modeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility,  
3 including site grading and improvement and architect fees.

4 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(C) A college or school of veterinary med-  
24 icine accredited by the American Veterinary  
25 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.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization of appropriations shall remain available to the Secretary for the purposes of this section until expended.”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 15,  
2010.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*