

HOUSE BILL No. 2553

By Representative Trimmer

1-25

1 AN ACT concerning animal care; relating to the veterinary training
2 program for rural Kansas; increasing county population maximum;
3 amending K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 76-4,112 and repealing the existing
4 section.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 76-4,112 is hereby amended to read as
8 follows: 76-4,112. (a) There is hereby established the veterinary training
9 program for rural Kansas at the college of veterinary medicine at Kansas
10 state university which shall be developed and implemented in order to
11 provide encouragement, opportunities and incentives for persons pursuing
12 a veterinary medicine degree program at Kansas state university to locate
13 their veterinary practice in rural Kansas communities and receive
14 specialized training targeted to meet the needs of livestock producers and
15 rural Kansas communities. The program shall be administered by the
16 college of veterinary medicine at Kansas state university.

17 (b) Subject to the provisions of appropriation acts, in accordance with
18 the provisions of this section, the college may enter into program
19 agreements with up to five first-year veterinary students per year who have
20 entered into a program agreement. Preference shall be given to those
21 students who are Kansas residents and who agree to serve in a county as
22 described in subsection (d)(3) which is determined to be an underserved
23 area for the practice of veterinary medicine as determined by the college.

24 (c) Subject to the provisions of appropriation acts, each student
25 entering into a program agreement under this section shall receive a loan
26 in the amount of \$20,000 per year for not more than four years for tuition,
27 books, supplies and other school expenses, and travel and training
28 expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary medicine degree.
29 Upon satisfaction of all commitments under the provisions of the
30 agreement and the provisions of this section, the loans provided pursuant
31 to this section shall be deemed satisfied and forgiven.

32 (d) Each program agreement shall require that the person receiving
33 the loan:

- 34 (1) Complete the veterinary medicine degree program at the college;
35 (2) complete all advanced training in public health, livestock
36 biosecurity, foreign animal disease diagnosis, regulatory veterinary

1 medicine and zoonotic disease, and an externship and mentoring
2 requirement with a licensed, accredited veterinarian in rural Kansas as
3 required by the college;

4 (3) engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in any
5 county in Kansas which has a population not exceeding ~~35,000~~ 40,000 at
6 the time the person entered into the program agreement for a period of at
7 least 12 continuous months for each separate year a student receives a loan
8 under the program, unless such obligation is otherwise satisfied as
9 provided in this section. A program agreement whereby the person
10 pursuant to such agreement is engaging in the full-time practice of
11 veterinary medicine in a county that no longer meets the maximum
12 population requirements provided in this subsection after the date that such
13 program agreement was entered into by the college and the person shall
14 continue in full force and effect subject to the other requirements
15 contained in this section;

16 (4) commence such full-time practice of veterinary medicine within
17 90 days after completion of such person's degree program, or if such
18 person enters a post-degree training program such as a graduate school or
19 internship or residency program, within 90 days after completion of such
20 post-degree training program; and

21 (5) upon failure to satisfy the obligation to engage in the full-time
22 practice of veterinary medicine in accordance with the provisions of this
23 section, repay to the college, within 90 days of such failure, the amount
24 equal to the amount loaned to such person less a prorated amount based on
25 any such periods of practice of veterinary medicine meeting the
26 requirements of this section, plus interest at the prime rate of interest plus
27 2% from the date such loan accrued. Such interest shall be compounded
28 annually.

29 (e) An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine in
30 accordance with the provisions of this section shall be postponed during:
31 (1) Any period of temporary medical disability during which the person
32 obligated is unable to practice veterinary medicine due to such disability;
33 and (2) any other period of postponement agreed to or determined in
34 accordance with criteria agreed to in the practice agreement.

35 (f) An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine in
36 accordance with the provisions of the agreement and this section shall be
37 satisfied: (1) If the obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
38 medicine in accordance with the agreement has been completed; (2) if,
39 because of permanent disability, the person obligated is unable to practice
40 veterinary medicine; or (3) the person obligated dies.

41 (g) The college may adopt additional provisions, requirements or
42 conditions to participate in this program as are practicable and appropriate
43 to accomplish the provisions of the program or may be required for the

1 implementation or administration of the program, and, in any case, as are
2 not inconsistent with the provisions of this section or the provisions of
3 appropriation acts.

4 (h) As used in this section: (1) "College" means the college of
5 veterinary medicine at Kansas state university; (2) "program" means the
6 veterinary training program for rural Kansas established pursuant to this
7 section; and (3) "program agreement" means an agreement to meet all the
8 obligations provided in this section by a person who is a first-year
9 veterinary student at the college, and provides benefits to such person as
10 provided in this section.

11 (i) The dean of the college shall annually submit a report to the senate
12 committee on agriculture and the house committee on agriculture and
13 natural resources. Such annual report shall include details on the veterinary
14 training program for rural Kansas, the veterinary diagnostic laboratory, the
15 national bio and agro defense facility and other programs of the college.

16 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 76-4,112 is hereby repealed.

17 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
18 publication in the statute book.