

CHAPTER 318

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

SENATE BILL 23-044

BY SENATOR(S) Ginal and Pelton R., Hansen, Hinrichsen, Liston, Pelton B., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Simpson, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McCormick and Winter T., Amabile, Bird, Brown, Dickson, Duran, Hamrick, Joseph, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Lynch, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Snyder, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Willford, Young, McCluskie.

AN ACT**CONCERNING UPDATES TO THE VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-1006, **amend** (1), (2)(a), and (3)(a)(I) as follows:

23-31-1006. Program applicant eligibility - criteria. (1) Each year, the council shall select up to ~~four~~ **SIX** qualified veterinarian applicants to participate in the program. The number of applicants that the council may choose in a given year is dependent on the amount of money available in that year for the council to award under the program.

(2) To be eligible for repayment under the program, an applicant must:

(a) Be a licensed veterinarian who:

(I) Agrees, in the form and manner determined by the council, to practice veterinary medicine in a veterinary shortage area, as designated by the council pursuant to section 23-31-1007. ~~and~~

(II) ~~Graduated from an accredited doctor of veterinary medicine school in 2017 or later;~~

(3) An applicant selected for loan repayment under the program:

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(a) Is eligible for an amount:

(I) Up to ~~seventy~~ NINETY thousand dollars pursuant to the maximum yearly repayment amounts set forth in section 23-31-1009; and

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-1009, **amend** (2) as follows:

23-31-1009. Loan repayment. (2) As required by a selected veterinarian's contract under the program, the veterinarian is eligible for the following amounts of loan repayment:

(a) Upon completion of six months of the first year of service under the program, ~~ten~~ FIFTEEN thousand dollars;

(b) Upon completion of a second year of service under the program, an additional ~~fifteen~~ TWENTY thousand dollars;

(c) Upon completion of a third year of service under the program, an additional ~~twenty~~ TWENTY-FIVE thousand dollars; and

(d) Upon completion of a fourth year of service under the ~~contract~~ PROGRAM, an additional ~~twenty-five~~ THIRTY thousand dollars.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-1010, **amend** (1) as follows:

23-31-1010. Veterinary education loan repayment fund - creation - gifts, grants, and donations. (1) (a) The veterinary education loan repayment fund, referred to in this part 10 as the "fund", is ~~hereby~~ created in the state treasury.

(b) ~~On September 1, 2017, the state treasurer shall transfer one hundred forty thousand dollars from the general fund to the fund.~~

(c) The fund also consists of money credited to it pursuant to subsection (5) of this section and any additional money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund.

(d) ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND.

SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 2, 2023