

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REREVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 17-0991.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

**HOUSE BILL 17-1282**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ginal,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Sonnenberg, Kefalas**

**House Committees**

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

**Senate Committees**

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy  
Appropriations

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN**  
102 **REPAYMENT PROGRAM TO ASSIST VETERINARIANS WITH**  
103 **EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR PROVIDING**  
104 **VETERINARY SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE IN NEED**  
105 **OF VETERINARY SERVICES.**

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill creates the state veterinary education loan repayment council (council), which consists of 5 directors appointed by the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 10, 2017

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 9, 2017

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 17, 2017

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 13, 2017

governor. The council administers the veterinary education loan repayment program (program) by use of funds from the veterinary education loan repayment fund (fund), which program and fund are also created in the bill. Through the program, the council provides veterinary education loan repayments from the fund to eligible veterinarians who:

- ! Have graduated from an accredited doctor of veterinary medicine school;
- ! Currently live in Colorado or, at some point, have lived in Colorado for at least 3 years; and
- ! Agree to practice veterinary medicine for up to 4 years in a rural area of the state that is experiencing a shortage of veterinarians that the council designates for participation in the program.

To implement the program, the council enters into a contract with an eligible veterinarian and the rural area of the state in which the veterinarian will practice veterinary medicine.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 10 to article  
3 31 of title 23 as follows:

4 **PART 10**

5 **VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN**

6 **REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

7 **23-31-1001. Legislative declaration.** (1) **THE GENERAL**  
8 **ASSEMBLY** FINDS AND DETERMINES THAT:

9 (a) **MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN COLORADO**  
10 **HAVE AT MOST ONE LIVESTOCK-ORIENTED VETERINARIAN, THUS LEAVING**  
11 **THE OWNERS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF LIVESTOCK WITH LITTLE OR**  
12 **NO ACCESS TO VETERINARY MEDICINE;**

13 (b) **FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO ANIMAL**  
14 **HEALTH;**

15 (c) **COLORADO PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN MEETING OUR GROWING**  
16 **POPULATION'S INCREASING DEMAND FOR PROTEIN;**

1 (d) ACCORDING TO NATIONWIDE MARKET STATISTICS DEVELOPED  
2 FOR THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, LESS THAN FIVE  
3 PERCENT OF VETERINARIANS IN THE UNITED STATES PRACTICE  
4 PREDOMINANTLY ON LIVESTOCK;

5 (e) RURAL VETERINARIANS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN PROTECTING  
6 THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS AND HUMANS;

7 (f) MANY GRADUATES OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
8 COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES WERE  
9 RAISED IN RURAL AREAS AND ARE INTERESTED IN LIVESTOCK-ORIENTED  
10 PRACTICE; HOWEVER, THESE GRADUATES OFTEN FEEL LIMITED TO  
11 PRACTICE IN AREAS OF THE STATE WITH HIGHER STARTING SALARIES DUE  
12 TO THEIR LOAN REPAYMENT OBLIGATIONS; AND

13 (g) LOAN FORGIVENESS AND REPAYMENT PROGRAMS IN OTHER  
14 STATES HAVE IMPROVED VETERINARIANS' ABILITY TO PURSUE VETERINARY  
15 PRACTICES IN RURAL AREAS.

16 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINES AND  
17 DECLARES THAT A VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM  
18 WOULD BENEFIT COLORADO BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR  
19 VETERINARIANS TO PRACTICE IN RURAL AREAS IN WHICH VETERINARY  
20 NEEDS ARE NOT CURRENTLY BEING MET.

21 **23-31-1002. Definitions - rules.** AS USED IN THIS PART 10, UNLESS  
22 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

23 (1) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE STATE VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN  
24 REPAYMENT COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 23-31-1003.

25 (2) "LICENSED VETERINARIAN" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET  
26 FORTH IN SECTION 12-64-103 (9).

27 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE STATE VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN

1 REPAYMENT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 23-31-1004.

2 (4) "RURAL" MEANS:

3 (a) A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN THIRTY  
4 THOUSAND; OR

5 (b) A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN TWENTY  
6 THOUSAND IF THE MUNICIPALITY IS NOT CONTIGUOUS TO A MUNICIPALITY  
7 WITH A POPULATION OF TWENTY THOUSAND OR MORE.

8 (5) "VETERINARIAN" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN  
9 SECTION 12-64-103 (15).

10 (6) "VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA" MEANS A RURAL AREA THAT  
11 THE COUNCIL DETERMINES HAS A SHORTAGE OF VETERINARIANS  
12 PRACTICING IN THE AREA.

13 **23-31-1003. State veterinary education loan repayment**  
14 **council - creation - membership.** (1) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN  
15 COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND  
16 BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES THE VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT  
17 COUNCIL, REFERRED TO IN THIS PART 10 AS THE "COUNCIL". THE COUNCIL  
18 SHALL BE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE DEAN OF COLORADO  
19 STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL  
20 SCIENCES OR THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE. THE DEAN OR THE DEAN'S DESIGNEE  
21 MAY AUTHORIZE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE  
22 SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL IF SUCH STAFF ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED  
23 WITHIN COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS.

24 (2) (a) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF FIVE DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY  
25 THE GOVERNOR. A DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL:

26 (I) MUST NOT BE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL;

27 (II) MAY SERVE UP TO THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS; AND

1 (III) SHALL NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR HIS OR HER  
2 MEMBERSHIP ON THE COUNCIL, BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY  
3 NECESSARY AND REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED WHILE PERFORMING  
4 HIS OR HER DUTIES AS A DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL.

5 (b) (I) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2017, THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
6 APPOINT THE INITIAL FIVE DIRECTORS OF THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL  
7 MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES:

8 (A) AT LEAST ONE DIRECTOR MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY  
9 OR STAFF OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF VETERINARY  
10 MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES;

11 (B) THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE OR HIS OR HER  
12 DESIGNEE;

13 (C) AT LEAST ONE DIRECTOR MUST BE ASSOCIATED WITH, AND  
14 ABLE TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF, THE COLORADO LIVESTOCK  
15 INDUSTRIES; AND

16 (D) AT LEAST ONE DIRECTOR MUST BE ASSOCIATED WITH, AND  
17 ABLE TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF, THE COLORADO VETERINARY  
18 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

19 (II) OF THE INITIAL FIVE DIRECTORS, THREE SERVE FOR FOUR-YEAR  
20 TERMS AND TWO SERVE FOR TWO-YEAR TERMS. ALL SUBSEQUENT TERMS  
21 ARE FOUR-YEAR TERMS.

22 (III) UNLESS EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS ILLNESS OR  
23 DEATH REQUIRE OTHERWISE, EACH DIRECTOR SHALL HOLD OFFICE UNTIL  
24 HIS OR HER SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.

25 (3) THE GOVERNOR, AT HIS OR HER PLEASURE, MAY REMOVE A  
26 DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL AT ANY TIME. IF A DIRECTOR VACATES HIS OR  
27 HER SEAT ON THE COUNCIL DURING THE TERM FOR WHICH THE DIRECTOR

1 WAS APPOINTED, THE GOVERNOR SHALL FILL THE RESULTANT VACANCY BY  
2 APPOINTING A DIRECTOR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM. THE  
3 SUCCESSOR DIRECTOR MUST MEET THE SAME QUALIFICATIONS UNDER THIS  
4 SECTION AS HIS OR HER PREDECESSOR.

5 (4) (a) AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, AND AS  
6 NECESSARY THEREAFTER, THE DIRECTORS SHALL APPOINT FROM THEIR  
7 MEMBERSHIP A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL, WHO HAVE JOINT  
8 AUTHORITY OVER THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL MATTERS, INCLUDING LOAN  
9 REPAYMENT AUTHORIZATIONS BASED ON THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF  
10 LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATIONS.

11 (b) PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-6-402, THE COUNCIL SHALL  
12 CONDUCT ALL BUSINESS AT REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETINGS THAT ARE  
13 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY  
14 TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS PART 10.

15 (c) COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRES THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A  
16 MAJORITY OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL.

17 **23-31-1004. State veterinary education loan repayment**  
18 **program - creation - purpose.** THE COUNCIL SHALL ADMINISTER THE  
19 VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
20 FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO LICENSED VETERINARIANS TO PRACTICE  
21 VETERINARY MEDICINE IN VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREAS OF THE STATE  
22 THROUGH ASSISTANCE WITH THE REPAYMENT OF VETERINARY EDUCATION  
23 LOANS.

24 **23-31-1005. Council powers and duties.** (1) TO IMPLEMENT THIS  
25 PART 10, THE COUNCIL SHALL:

26 (a) PURSUANT TO THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SECTION  
27 23-31-1006, DETERMINE THE ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS OF AN

1 APPLICANT FOR LOAN REPAYMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM;

2 (b) WITH RESPECT TO THE VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREAS THAT  
3 ARE IN NEED OF VETERINARY MEDICAL SERVICES:

4 (I) IDENTIFY AND DESIGNATE THE VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREAS  
5 THAT WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE CRITERIA  
6 ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-31-1007;

7 (II) ESTABLISH A PRIORITY RANKING FOR THE DESIGNATED  
8 VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREAS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM BASED ON  
9 LEVEL OF NEED; AND

10 (III) ANNUALLY UPDATE THE LIST OF DESIGNATED VETERINARY  
11 SHORTAGE AREAS AND THE PRIORITY RANKINGS;

12 (c) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAXIMUM AMOUNTS SET FORTH IN  
13 SECTION 23-31-1009, DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF LOAN REPAYMENT  
14 MONEY TO WHICH AN APPLICANT SELECTED UNDER THE PROGRAM IS  
15 ELIGIBLE, BASED ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT OF ANY OUTSTANDING  
16 EDUCATION LOAN THAT MEETS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SECTION  
17 23-31-1006 (2); AND

18 (d) UPON SELECTING AN APPLICANT, ENTER INTO A RENEWABLE  
19 CONTRACT WITH THE SELECTED APPLICANT AND THE DESIGNATED  
20 VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA TO WHICH THE SELECTED APPLICANT HAS  
21 BEEN MATCHED TO PROVIDE LOAN REPAYMENT MONEY ON THE SELECTED  
22 APPLICANT'S BEHALF IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SELECTED APPLICANT'S  
23 AGREEMENT TO ACTIVELY PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THE  
24 VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA.

25 (2) IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS PART 10, THE  
26 COUNCIL MAY:

27 (a) RECEIVE AND USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR OR DONATED TO

1 THE PROGRAM TO BE USED IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PROGRAM;

2 (b) WITH RESPECT TO ANY CONTRACT THAT THE COUNCIL HAS  
3 ENTERED INTO WITH A SELECTED APPLICANT AND A DESIGNATED  
4 VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA UNDER THE PROGRAM:

5 (I) ENFORCE THE CONTRACT; OR

6 (II) CANCEL THE CONTRACT FOR GOOD CAUSE BASED ON A  
7 DETERMINATION THAT THE APPLICANT IS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE  
8 TERMS OF THE CONTRACT;

9 (c) MONITOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT THE REPAYMENT  
10 OF EDUCATION LOANS INCURRED BY VETERINARIANS; AND

11 (d) ACCEPT PROPERTY FROM ANOTHER ENTITY TO BE USED IN  
12 FURTHERANCE OF THE PROGRAM.

13 **23-31-1006. Program applicant eligibility - criteria.** (1) EACH  
14 YEAR, THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT UP TO FOUR QUALIFIED VETERINARIAN  
15 APPLICANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. THE NUMBER OF  
16 APPLICANTS THAT THE COUNCIL MAY CHOOSE IN A GIVEN YEAR IS  
17 DEPENDENT ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AVAILABLE IN THAT YEAR FOR  
18 THE COUNCIL TO AWARD UNDER THE PROGRAM.

19 (2) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR REPAYMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM, AN  
20 APPLICANT MUST:

21 (a) BE A LICENSED VETERINARIAN WHO:

22 (I) AGREES, IN THE FORM AND MANNER DETERMINED BY THE  
23 COUNCIL, TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE IN A VETERINARY  
24 SHORTAGE AREA, AS DESIGNATED BY THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION  
25 **23-31-1007**; AND

26 (II) GRADUATED FROM AN ACCREDITED DOCTOR OF VETERINARY  
27 MEDICINE SCHOOL IN 2017 OR LATER;



1 (b) CURRENTLY LIVES IN COLORADO OR, AT SOME POINT, HAS  
2 LIVED IN COLORADO FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS; AND

3 (c) HAS AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATION LOAN:

4 (I) THAT WAS INCURRED IN RELATION TO THE APPLICANT'S  
5 ATTENDANCE AT AN ACCREDITED DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
6 SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES;

7 (II) FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT IS NOT IN DEFAULT; AND

8 (III) THAT HAS NOT BEEN CONSOLIDATED WITH ANY LOANS  
9 INCURRED BY A SPOUSE.

10 (3) AN APPLICANT SELECTED FOR LOAN REPAYMENT UNDER THE  
11 PROGRAM:

12 (a) IS ELIGIBLE FOR AN AMOUNT:

13 (I) UP TO SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS PURSUANT TO THE  
14 MAXIMUM YEARLY REPAYMENT AMOUNTS SET FORTH IN SECTION  
15 23-31-1009; AND

16 (II) THAT CORRELATES TO THE APPLICANT'S OUTSTANDING  
17 VETERINARY EDUCATION LOANS;

18 (b) SHALL CONTRACT WITH THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE VETERINARY  
19 MEDICAL SERVICES IN ONE OR MORE DESIGNATED VETERINARY SHORTAGE  
20 AREAS FOR A PERIOD UP TO FOUR YEARS.

21 (4) IN ESTABLISHING THE APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR  
22 LOAN REPAYMENT UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER  
23 THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICANT'S  
24 COMPATIBILITY WITH A DESIGNATED VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA:

25 (a) AN APPLICANT'S TRAINING WITH RESPECT TO, ABILITY TO  
26 PROVIDE, AND WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN, FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARY  
27 MEDICINE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE DESIGNATED VETERINARY

1 SHORTAGE AREA NEEDS FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARY MEDICAL SERVICES;

2 (b) AN APPLICANT'S COMMITMENT TO PRACTICE VETERINARY  
3 MEDICINE IN THE DESIGNATED VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA;

4 (c) AN APPLICANT'S DATE OF AVAILABILITY TO PRACTICE  
5 VETERINARY MEDICINE IN THE DESIGNATED VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA;

6 AND

7 (d) AN APPLICANT'S COMPETENCE, AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE  
8 BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CREATED IN SECTION 12-64-105, AND  
9 ABILITY TO FULFILL THE DUTIES IDENTIFIED IN THE APPLICATION.

10 (5) THE COUNCIL SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS  
11 WHO:

12 (a) HAVE GRADUATED FROM COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
13 COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES; AND

14 (b) WITH RESPECT TO A DESIGNATED VETERINARY SHORTAGE  
15 AREA:

16 (I) HAVE LIVED IN THE VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA OR A NEARBY  
17 AREA;

18 (II) HAVE FAMILY IN THE VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA OR A  
19 NEARBY AREA; OR

20 (III) LIVE, OR HAVE LIVED, IN A SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR RURAL  
21 AREA OF THE STATE.

22 **23-31-1007. Designated veterinary shortage areas - criteria.**

23 (1) IN DESIGNATING A COMMUNITY A VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA, THE  
24 COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER:

25 (a) THE VETERINARY SERVICE NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY THE  
26 COMMUNITY, GIVING PRIORITY TO COMMUNITIES THAT DEMONSTRATE THE  
27 POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE FOOD ANIMAL HEALTH IMPACTS

1 WITHIN COLORADO IF THEIR VETERINARY SERVICE NEEDS ARE NOT MET;

2 (b) THE NUMBER OF VETERINARIANS PRACTICING IN THE  
3 COMMUNITY AND ITS SURROUNDING AREA;

4 (c) THE EXISTING ACCESS RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ITS  
5 SURROUNDING AREAS HAVE TO VETERINARY SERVICES; AND

6 (d) THE DEGREE TO WHICH RESIDENTS OR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS  
7 SUPPORT THE ADDITION OF A VETERINARIAN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

8 (2) FOR COMMUNITIES THAT THE COUNCIL IDENTIFIES AS  
9 VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREAS BASED ON THEIR DEMONSTRATED NEED  
10 FOR VETERINARY SERVICES, THE COUNCIL, IN DESIGNATING WHICH  
11 VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREAS TO MATCH WITH VETERINARIANS THROUGH  
12 THE PROGRAM, SHALL PRIORITIZE THE VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREAS  
13 BASED ON THEIR DEMONSTRATED LEVEL OF NEED FOR VETERINARY  
14 SERVICES.

15 (3) IN EVALUATING A VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA TO DETERMINE  
16 WHETHER TO DESIGNATE THE VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA FOR  
17 PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, THE COUNCIL MAY CONSULT WITH  
18 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES AND VISIT THE VETERINARY SHORTAGE  
19 AREA.

20 **23-31-1008. Release from contract obligation.** (1) THE  
21 COUNCIL SHALL RELEASE A VETERINARIAN SELECTED FOR REPAYMENT  
22 UNDER THE PROGRAM FROM HIS OR HER VETERINARY LOAN REPAYMENT  
23 CONTRACT WITHOUT PENALTY IF:

24 (a) THE VETERINARIAN HAS COMPLETED THE SERVICE  
25 REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONTRACT;

26 (b) THE VETERINARIAN IS UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE SERVICE  
27 REQUIREMENT OF THE CONTRACT BECAUSE OF A PERMANENT PHYSICAL

1       DISABILITY;

2               (c) THE VETERINARIAN DEMONSTRATES TO THE COUNCIL EXTREME  
3       HARDSHIP OR OTHER GOOD CAUSE JUSTIFYING RELEASE FROM THE  
4       CONTRACT; OR

5               (d) THE VETERINARIAN DIES.

6               (2) A DECISION BY THE COUNCIL NOT TO RELEASE A VETERINARIAN  
7       FROM THE VETERINARIAN'S LOAN REPAYMENT CONTRACT WITHOUT  
8       PENALTY IS A FINAL AGENCY ACTION THAT IS REVIEWABLE BY A DISTRICT  
9       COURT.

10              **23-31-1009. Loan repayment.** (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL MAKE  
11       ALL PAYMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM ON A VETERINARIAN'S BEHALF TO  
12       THE ISSUER OR PURCHASER OF THE VETERINARIAN'S STUDENT LOAN.

13              (2) AS REQUIRED BY A SELECTED VETERINARIAN'S CONTRACT  
14       UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE VETERINARIAN IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE  
15       FOLLOWING AMOUNTS OF LOAN REPAYMENT:

16              (a) UPON COMPLETION OF SIX MONTHS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF  
17       SERVICE UNDER THE PROGRAM, TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS;

18              (b) UPON COMPLETION OF A SECOND YEAR OF SERVICE UNDER THE  
19       PROGRAM, AN ADDITIONAL FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS;

20              (c) UPON COMPLETION OF A THIRD YEAR OF SERVICE UNDER THE  
21       PROGRAM, AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS; AND

22              (d) UPON COMPLETION OF A FOURTH YEAR OF SERVICE UNDER THE  
23       CONTRACT, AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

24              (3) A VETERINARIAN IS NOT ENTITLED TO RECEIVE MORE THAN  
25       SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

26              (4) IF, FOR ANY OF THE YEARS OF SERVICE FOR WHICH A  
27       VETERINARIAN SELECTED UNDER THE PROGRAM IS CONTRACTED TO

1 PROVIDE SERVICE, THE VETERINARIAN FAILS TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE  
2 YEAR OF SERVICE, THE COUNCIL SHALL PRORATE THE AMOUNT OF LOAN  
3 REPAYMENT ON THE VETERINARIAN'S BEHALF FOR THAT YEAR.

4 **23-31-1010. Veterinary education loan repayment fund -**  
5 **creation - gifts, grants, and donations.** (1) (a) THE VETERINARY  
6 EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS PART 10 AS THE  
7 "FUND", IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY.

8 (b) ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2017, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL  
9 TRANSFER ONE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL  
10 FUND TO THE FUND.

11 (c) THE FUND ALSO CONSISTS OF MONEY CREDITED TO IT  
12 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY ADDITIONAL  
13 MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER  
14 TO THE FUND.

15 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND  
16 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE  
17 FUND TO THE FUND.

18 (3) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ANY UNEXPENDED AND  
19 UNENCUMBERED MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL  
20 YEAR TO THE FUND.

21 (4) MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE  
22 COUNCIL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM UNDER THIS PART 10.

23 (5) (a) THE COUNCIL MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,  
24 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE  
25 PURPOSES OF THIS PART 10. THE COUNCIL SHALL TRANSMIT ALL MONEY  
26 RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE  
27 TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE FUND.

1 (b) THE COUNCIL MAY CONTRACT WITH A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
2 ENTITY AND MAY EXPEND MONEY AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL TO OBTAIN  
3 MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS PART 10.

4 (c) IF AN ENTITY DESIRES TO PROVIDE A GIFT, GRANT, OR  
5 DONATION OF MONEY TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A  
6 VETERINARIAN IN A SPECIFIC VETERINARY SHORTAGE AREA, THE ENTITY  
7 SHALL COMMIT TO PROVIDE THE FULL AMOUNT REQUIRED UNDER THE  
8 PROGRAM FOR PLACEMENT OF A VETERINARIAN IN THAT VETERINARY  
9 SHORTAGE AREA FOR FOUR YEARS.

10 (d) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (5), "GIFTS, GRANTS, OR  
11 DONATIONS" INCLUDE MONEY FROM AN ENDOWMENT.

12 (6) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-75-402 (2)(a) AND FOR  
13 EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE ALTERNATIVE MAXIMUM RESERVE FOR THE FUND  
14 IS THIRTY-THREE AND THREE-TENTHS PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT EXPENDED  
15 FROM THE FUND DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.

16 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
17 **applicability. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the**  
18 **expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general**  
19 **assembly (August 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017);**  
20 **except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of**  
21 **article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or**  
22 **part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will**  
23 **not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be**  
24 **held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of**  
25 **the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.**