

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 23-0255.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**SENATE BILL 23-044**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ginal and Pelton R.,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCormick,**

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**Senate Committees**

Agriculture & Natural Resources

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING UPDATES TO THE VETERINARY EDUCATION LOAN**  
102 **REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

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**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 updates the veterinary education loan repayment program in the following ways:

- The number of qualified applicants per year is increased from 4 to 6;
- The requirement that an applicant must have graduated from an accredited veterinary school in 2017 or later is

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

- eliminated;
- The total amount an applicant is eligible for over a 4-year period is increased from \$70,000 to \$90,000;
- The yearly repayment amounts for successful applicants are increased; and
- The state treasurer is required to transfer \$540,000 from the general fund to the veterinary education loan repayment fund on September 1, 2023.

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

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

4 **23-31-1006. Program applicant eligibility - criteria.** (1) Each  
 5 year, the council shall select up to ~~four~~ SIX qualified veterinarian  
 6 applicants to participate in the program. The number of applicants that the  
 7 council may choose in a given year is dependent on the amount of money  
 8 available in that year for the council to award under the program.

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

11 (a) Be a licensed veterinarian who:

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

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

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

18 (a) Is eligible for an amount:

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

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-31-1009, **amend**

1 (2) as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 **23-31-1010. Veterinary education loan repayment fund -**  
16 **creation - gifts, grants, and donations.** (1) (a) The veterinary education  
17 loan repayment fund, referred to in this part 10 as the "fund", is ~~hereby~~  
18 created in the state treasury.

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

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

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

27 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

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