

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 25, 2024

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 3196

By: Newton and Archer of the
House

5 and

6 Jech and Pederson of the
7 Senate

8
9 An Act relating to professions and occupations;
10 amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 698.33, which relates
11 to the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act; modifying
12 veterinary training program for rural Oklahoma;
13 updating references; prioritizing students currently
14 enrolled at the Oklahoma State University College of
15 Veterinary Medicine; modifying maximum assistance
16 amount; and declaring an emergency.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 698.33, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 698.33 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as
21 the "Dr. Lee Denney Act of 2024".

22 B. There is hereby established the veterinary training program
23 for rural Oklahoma to be administered by the Oklahoma State
24 University Center for Veterinary ~~Health Sciences~~ Medicine Authority.
The program shall be developed and implemented in order to provide
encouragement, opportunities and incentives for persons pursuing a

1 veterinary medicine degree at Oklahoma State University to locate
2 their veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma communities, and receive
3 specialized training targeted to meet the needs of livestock
4 producers in rural Oklahoma communities.

5 ~~B. Subject to available funds, each~~ C. Each year the
6 ~~Veterinary Center Authority~~ may enter into program agreements with
7 ~~up to three first-year~~ veterinary students or currently practicing
8 large animal veterinarians with qualifying school loans, as
9 determined by the ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority. Preference shall be
10 given to those students and ~~large animal~~ veterinarians who are
11 focused on large animal veterinary medicine, who are Oklahoma
12 residents and who agree to serve in a community as described in
13 paragraph 3 of subsection ~~D~~ E of this section, which is determined
14 by the ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority to be an underserved area for the
15 practice of veterinary medicine. Allocation shall be prioritized to
16 eligible students currently enrolled at the Oklahoma State
17 University College of Veterinary Medicine.

18 ~~C. Subject to available funds, each~~ D. Each student or large
19 animal veterinarian entering into a program agreement under this
20 section shall receive assistance in an amount not to exceed ~~Twenty~~
21 ~~Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00)~~ Twenty-five Thousand Dollars
22 (\$25,000.00) per year for not more than four (4) years for tuition,
23 books, supplies and other school expenses, and travel and training
24 expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary medicine

1 degree. Upon satisfaction of all commitments under the provisions
2 of the agreement and the provisions of this section, the financial
3 obligations pursuant to this section shall be deemed satisfied and
4 forgiven.

5 ~~D.~~ E. Each program agreement shall require that the person
6 receiving the assistance:

7 1. Complete the veterinary medicine degree program at the
8 ~~Veterinary Center~~ Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary
9 Medicine;

10 2. Complete all requirements in public health, livestock
11 biosecurity, foreign animal disease diagnosis, regulatory veterinary
12 medicine and zoonotic disease, and an externship and mentoring
13 requirement with a licensed, accredited veterinarian in rural
14 Oklahoma as required by the ~~Veterinary Center~~ College;

15 3. Engage in ~~the~~ a full-time practice ~~of veterinary medicine~~
16 focused on large animal medicine in any community in Oklahoma which
17 has a population not exceeding twenty-five thousand (25,000) as
18 determined by the most recent Federal Decennial Census at the time
19 the person entered into the program agreement for a period of at
20 least twelve (12) continuous months for each separate year a student
21 receives assistance under the program, unless the obligation is
22 otherwise satisfied as provided in this section. If, after the date
23 a program agreement was entered into by the parties, a community no
24 longer meets the maximum population requirements provided in this

1 paragraph, a person engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary
2 medicine pursuant to the program agreement shall continue to
3 practice in that designated community; and

4 4. Commence ~~the~~ a full-time practice of veterinary medicine
5 focused on large animal medicine in that community within ninety
6 (90) days after completion of the person's degree program, or if the
7 person enters a postdegree training program, such as a graduate
8 school or internship or residency program, within ninety (90) days
9 after completion of the postdegree training program.

10 ~~F.~~ F. Upon the failure of a person to satisfy the obligation to
11 engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
12 accordance with the provisions of this section, that person shall
13 repay to the ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority, within ninety (90) days of
14 the failure, the amount equal to the assistance provided to the
15 person less a prorated amount based on any periods of practice of
16 veterinary medicine meeting the requirements of this section, plus
17 interest at the prime rate of interest plus two percent (2%) from
18 the date the assistance accrued. The interest shall be compounded
19 annually.

20 ~~F.~~ G. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
21 medicine in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be
22 postponed during:
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1 1. Any period of temporary medical disability during which the
2 person obligated is unable to practice veterinary medicine due to
3 the disability; and

4 2. Any other period of postponement agreed to or determined in
5 accordance with criteria agreed to in the practice agreement.

6 ~~G.~~ H. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
7 medicine in accordance with the provisions of the agreement and this
8 section shall be satisfied:

9 1. If the obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
10 medicine in accordance with the agreement has been completed;

11 2. If, because of permanent disability, the person obligated is
12 unable to practice veterinary medicine; or

13 3. The person who is obligated dies.

14 ~~H.~~ I. The ~~Veterinary Center~~ Authority may adopt additional
15 provisions, requirements or conditions to participate in this
16 program as are practicable and appropriate to accomplish the
17 provisions of the program or may be required for the implementation
18 or administration of the program, and are not inconsistent with the
19 provisions of this section.

20 ~~I.~~ ~~The Veterinary Center shall not enter into any program~~
21 ~~agreements pursuant to the provisions of this section after July 1,~~
22 ~~2025. All agreements entered into prior to such date shall be~~
23 ~~valid.~~

1 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS
6 March 25, 2024 - DO PASS
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