

HCS SS SCS SB 320 -- LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARY STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE

This bill transfers the administration of the Large Animal Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program from the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board to the Department of Agriculture. The maximum number of veterinarians to whom loan repayments can be granted each year is increased from five to six, the required number of years of service in an area of defined need to satisfy the loan repayment requirement is reduced from five to four, and the maximum service loan repayment amount per year is increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

The Large Animal Veterinary Student Loan Program is established to provide up to six loans yearly to veterinary students attending the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia. No student can receive more than \$80,000 in loans. Veterinary students agreeing to locate their practice in department-identified, under-served areas of the state will have certain amounts of their loan principal and interest forgiven.

The department director will appoint an advisory panel to make recommendations regarding the administration of the programs. The panel will consist of three licensed large animal veterinarians, the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and a public member representing agricultural interests.

The Veterinary Student Loan Payment Fund is created consisting of appropriations from general revenue and donations. Moneys in the fund will be used for student loans and administrative expenses incurred by the department.

The provisions regarding the Large Animal Veterinary Student Loan Program will expire June 30, 2013.