

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 403

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HADEN.

1031H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to the large animal veterinary student loan program.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, RSMo, are repealed and five new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, to read as follows:

340.341. 1. The department shall adopt and promulgate rules establishing standards for determining eligible students for loan repayment pursuant to sections 340.335 to 340.350. Such standards shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Citizenship or lawful permanent residency in the United States;
- (2) Residence in the state of Missouri;
- (3) Enrollment as a full-time veterinary medical student in the final year of a course of study offered by an approved educational institution in Missouri;
- (4) Application for loan repayment.

2. The department shall not grant repayment for more than ~~six~~ **twelve** veterinarians each year.

340.345. 1. A loan payment provided for an individual pursuant to a written contract under the large animal veterinary medicine loan repayment program shall consist of payment on behalf of the individual of the principal, interest and related expenses on government and commercial loans received by the individual for tuition, fees, books, laboratory and living expenses incurred by the individual.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

6 2. For each year of obligated services that an individual contracts to serve in an area
7 of defined need, the department may pay up to [~~twenty~~] **thirty** thousand dollars on behalf of
8 the individual for loans described in subsection 1 of this section.

9 3. The department may enter into an agreement with the holder of the loans for which
10 repayments are made under the large animal veterinary medicine loan repayment program to
11 establish a schedule for the making of such payments if the establishment of such a schedule
12 would result in reducing the costs to the state.

13 4. Any qualifying communities providing a portion of a loan repayment shall be
14 considered first for placement.

 340.381. 1. Sections 340.381 to 340.396 establish a student loan forgiveness program
2 for approved veterinary students who practice in areas of defined need. Such program shall
3 be known as the "Dr. Merrill Townley **and Dan Brown** Large Animal Veterinary Student
4 Loan Program".

5 2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Veterinary Student Loan Payment
6 Fund", which shall consist of general revenue appropriated to the large animal veterinary
7 student loan program, voluntary contributions to support or match program activities, money
8 collected under section 340.396, **any private grant, gift, donation, devise, or bequest of**
9 **moneys, funds, real or personal property, or other assets**, and funds received from the
10 federal government. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and shall approve
11 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180. Upon
12 appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of sections
13 340.381 to 340.396. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any
14 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
15 general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner
16 as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
17 credited to the fund.

 340.384. 1. Eligible students may apply to the department for financial assistance
2 under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396. If, at the time of application for a loan, a
3 student has formally applied for acceptance at the college, receipt of financial assistance is
4 contingent upon acceptance and continued enrollment at the college. A qualified applicant
5 may receive financial assistance up to [~~twenty~~] **thirty** thousand dollars for each academic
6 year he or she remains a student in good standing at the college, provided that the cumulative
7 total shall not exceed [~~eighty~~] **one hundred twenty** thousand dollars per qualified applicant.
8 An eligible student may apply for financial assistance under this section at any point in his or
9 her educational career at the college, however any such financial assistance shall only be
10 awarded for current or future academic years, as applicable, and shall not be awarded for any
11 academic year completed prior to the time of application.

12 2. Up to ~~[six]~~ **twelve** qualified applicants per academic year may be awarded loans
13 under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396. **The department may increase beyond**
14 **twelve the number of qualified applicants that may be awarded such loans per academic**
15 **year if the amount of any additional moneys from private grants, gifts, donations,**
16 **devises, or bequests of moneys, funds, real or personal property, or other assets**
17 **deposited in the veterinary student loan payment fund allows the full funding of such**
18 **increase in the number of applicants.** Priority for loans shall be given to eligible students
19 who have established financial need. All financial assistance shall be made from funds
20 credited to the veterinary student loan payment fund.

 340.387. 1. The department of agriculture may enter into a contract with each
2 qualified applicant receiving financial assistance under the provisions of sections 340.381 to
3 340.396. Such contract shall specify terms and conditions of loan forgiveness through
4 qualified employment as well as terms and conditions for repayment of the principal and
5 interest.

6 2. The department shall establish schedules for repayment of the principal and interest
7 on any financial assistance made under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396.
8 Interest at a rate set by the department, with the advice of the advisory panel created in section
9 ~~[340.341]~~ **340.375**, shall be charged from the time of the payment of financial assistance on
10 all financial assistance made under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396, but the
11 interest and principal of the total financial assistance granted to a qualified applicant at the
12 time of the successful completion of a doctor of veterinary medicine degree program shall be
13 forgiven through qualified employment.

14 3. For each year of qualified employment that an individual contracts to serve in an
15 area of defined need, the department shall forgive up to ~~[twenty]~~ **thirty** thousand dollars and
16 accrued interest thereon on behalf of the individual for financial assistance provided under
17 sections 340.381 to 340.396.

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