

Committee: IDEA
Drafter: RO
File Name:
LR (item)#: 2453
New Title?: No
Add Emergency?: No
Date: February 14, 2022

Amendment #2 for Representative Fay (sponsor) to LD 1885
An Act to Increase Maine's Veterinary Workforce

Changes are highlighted

Amend the bill in Sec 1. as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12121, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 488, §14 and amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6, is further amended to read:

3. Insufficient veterinary services. "Insufficient veterinary services" means an insufficient number of practitioners of veterinary medicine in a veterinary specialty related to livestock or emergency and critical care, as determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. In determining an insufficient number of practitioners of veterinary medicine in a veterinary specialty related to emergency and critical care, the commissioner must give priority consideration to regions within Aroostook County, Oxford County, Penobscot County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and Washington County.

Amend the bill in Sec. 2. as follows:

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12121, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Underserved geographic region. "Underserved geographic region" means a geographic region of the State in which there is an insufficient number of practitioners of veterinary medicine, as determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. In determining an underserved geographic region, the commissioner must include Aroostook County, Oxford County, Penobscot County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and Washington County.

Amend the bill in Sec. 3. as follows:

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12122, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 488, §14, is amended to read:

1. Establishment. The Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program is established. The authority shall administer the program. Beginning January 1, 2011 and until December 31, 2022, the chief executive officer shall, as resources allow, award up to 2 loans annually up to an aggregate of 8. Beginning January 1, 2023, the chief executive officer shall, as resources allow, award up to 10 8 loans annually up to an aggregate of 40 32. At least half of the annual loans awarded, and no fewer than 2, must be awarded to applicants who have demonstrated a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary medicine in the State. Should the authority receive fewer applications than the required number of awards for applicants who have demonstrated a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary medicine in the State, the

chief executive officer may award the remaining loans to other eligible applicants. Loans are available to Maine residents enrolled in a school of veterinary medicine.

Amend the bill in Sec. 5. as follows:

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12122, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 488, §14, is amended to read:

4. Maximum amount. The maximum loan amount available under the program to each participant is ~~\$25,000~~ \$50,000 \$35,000 per year for a period of up to 4 years.

Amend the bill in Sec. 8. as follows:

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §12122, sub-§5, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 488, §14 and amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5, is further amended to read:

C. A veterinarian requesting forgiveness or an interest rate benefit under this section shall report annually to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on the portion of the veterinarian's practice dedicated to livestock or emergency and critical care and the location of the veterinarian's practice and the geographic region served by the veterinarian's practice.

Amend the bill by inserting a new section as follows:

Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §12125 is enacted to read:

§12125. Report

The authority shall report by December 1, 2022, and annually thereafter for 5 years, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters on the program. The report must include the number of applications received each year, the annual number of loans awarded, the total amount disbursed through the program, the total amount of forgiveness granted, the total number of veterinary students assisted through loans, the total number of students awarded forgiveness, the number of participants working in a veterinary specialty related to livestock, the number of participants working in a veterinary specialty related to emergency and critical care, the number of participants working in an underserved geographic region and the location of each participants' veterinary practice. Beginning in 2028, the authority shall include this information in their annual report pursuant to Title 10, section 974.

Amend the bill by inserting a new section as follows: **(Will be officially drafted by OFPR)**

Sec. 13. Appropriation and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FAME

Student Financial Assistance –

Initiative: Provide additional ongoing funds for the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program so that the program can increase the number of annual awards to 8, up to an aggregate of 32, and can increase the maximum loan amount available under the program to each participant to \$35,000 per year for a period of 4 years.

General Fund

All Other

(additional \$920,000 on top of the current \$200,000 currently used for the program – total \$1,120,000)

SUMMARY

TBD

DRAFT