

Sixty-second  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO. 2341**

Introduced by

Senators Erbele, Olafson, Taylor

Representatives Boe, D. Johnson, J. Nelson

A BILL for an Act ~~to create and enact a new section to chapter 43-29.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to administrative costs of the veterinarian loan repayment program;~~ to amend and reenact sections 43-29.1-01, 43-29.1-02, 43-29.1-03, 43-29.1-07, and 43-29.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the veterinarian loan repayment program; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-29.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**43-29.1-01. Loan repayment program - Veterinarians - Maximum amount of funds.**

Each year the state health council, in consultation with the state board of animal health, shall select ~~from a pool of qualified applicants no more than three veterinarians who shall to~~ participate in a loan repayment program, as provided for in this chapter. Each applicant must be a veterinarian and must agree to provide food animal veterinary medicine services to communities in this state. The ~~veterinarians~~ selected applicants are eligible to receive up to eighty thousand dollars in loan repayment funds. ~~If the state health council accepts any gifts, grants, or donations under this chapter,~~ The number of applicants that the council may select ~~additional veterinarians for participation in the loan repayment program under is limited only by~~ the moneys available to support the program, as provided for in this chapter.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-29.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**43-29.1-02. Loan repayment program - Veterinarians - Powers of state health council.**

The state health council may:

1. Determine the eligibility and qualifications of an applicant for loan repayment funds under this chapter;

2. Identify communities that are in need of a veterinarian and establish a priority ranking for participation in the program by the selected communities-;
3. Create and distribute a loan repayment application-;
4. Determine the amount of the loan repayment funds for which ~~a veterinarian is an~~ applicant may be eligible under this chapter and, in making this determination, examine any outstanding education loans incurred by the applicant-;
5. Establish conditions regarding the use of the loan repayment funds-;
6. Enter a nonrenewable contract with the ~~veterinarian~~selected applicant and the selected community to provide to the ~~veterinarian~~applicant funds for the repayment of education loans in exchange for the ~~veterinarian~~applicant agreeing to actively practice in the selected community-;
7. Receive and use funds appropriated for the program-;
8. Enforce any contract under the program-;
9. Cancel a contract for reasonable cause-;
10. Participate in federal programs that support the repayment of education loans incurred by veterinarians and agree to the conditions of the federal programs-;
11. Accept property from an entity-; and
12. Cooperate with the state department of health to effectuate this chapter.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-29.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**43-29.1-03. Veterinarian selection criteria - Eligibility for loan repayment.**

1. In establishing the criteria regarding ~~a veterinarian's~~ eligibility for loan repayment funds under this chapter, the state health council shall consider the applicant's:
  - a. ~~Consider the veterinarian's training~~Training in food animal veterinary medicine, ability and, willingness of the ~~veterinarian~~ to engage in food animal veterinary medicine, and the extent to which such services are needed in a selected community-;
  - b. ~~Consider the veterinarian's commitment~~Commitment to serve in a community that is in need of a veterinarian-;
  - c. ~~Consider the compatibility of the veterinarian~~Compatibility with a selected community-;

- 1           d.   ~~Consider the date by which the veterinarian would be available~~Date of availability  
2               for service to the selected community; ~~and~~
- 3           e.   ~~Consider the veterinarian's competence~~Competence and professional conduct.
- 4           f.   ~~Give priority to a veterinarian on whose behalf state-funded student support fees~~  
5               ~~have not been paid.~~
- 6        2.   ~~A veterinarian who is~~An applicant selected to receive loan repayment funds under this  
7               chapter must:
  - 8           a.   ~~Must have~~Have graduated from an accredited college of veterinary medicine; and
  - 9           b.   ~~Must be~~Be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this state.
- 10       3.   ~~Veterinarians~~A selected applicant shall contract to provide full-time veterinary medicine  
11               services for two, three, or four years in one or more selected communities.

12       **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-29.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
13   amended and reenacted as follows:

14       **43-29.1-07. Loan repayment.**

- 15       1.   a.   Upon completing six months of the first year of service, as required by the  
16               contract, the veterinarian is eligible to receive a loan payment in an amount up to  
17               fifteen thousand dollars.
- 18       b.   Upon completing a second year of service, as required by the contract, the  
19               veterinarian is eligible to receive a loan payment in an amount up to fifteen  
20               thousand dollars.
- 21       c.   Upon completing a third year of service, as required by the contract, the  
22               veterinarian is eligible to receive a loan payment in an amount up to twenty-five  
23               thousand dollars.
- 24       d.   Upon completing a fourth year of service, as required by the contract, the  
25               veterinarian is eligible to receive a loan payment in an amount up to twenty-five  
26               thousand dollars.
- 27       2.   All payments under this section must be made on the veterinarian's behalf to the  
28               issuer of the student loan. ~~No individual may~~
- 29       3.   A veterinarian is not entitled to receive more than eighty thousand dollars under this  
30               section.

1       4. If an individual fails to complete an entire year of service, the amount repayable under  
2       this section for that year must be prorated.

3       5. If any moneys remain in the state veterinary loan repayment account after the health  
4       council has met all statutory and contractual obligations established under this  
5       chapter, the health council may use the moneys to increase the number of  
6       veterinarians participating in the loan repayment program.

7       **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-29.1-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
8       amended and reenacted as follows:

9       **43-29.1-08. Gifts, grants, and donations - Continuing appropriation.**

10      1. The state health council may accept any conditional or unconditional gifts, grants,  
11      ~~or~~ and donations for the purpose of providing ~~funds~~ moneys for the repayment of  
12      veterinarians' education loans. ~~If~~ However, if an entity desires to provide ~~funds~~ moneys  
13      to the state health council ~~to allow an expansion of the program beyond the three~~  
14      ~~veterinarians contemplated by this chapter~~ for the location of a veterinarian in or at a  
15      specific site, the entity shall commit to ~~fund fully the expansion~~ provide the full amount  
16      required under this program for a period of four years.

17      2. The state health council may contract with a public or private entity and may expend  
18      any moneys available to the council to obtain matching funds for the purposes of this  
19      chapter. ~~During the 2007-09 biennium, the state department of health may receive no~~  
20      ~~more than seven percent of the appropriated moneys and the state veterinarian may~~  
21      ~~receive no more than three percent of the appropriated moneys for administration of~~  
22      ~~the loan repayment program.~~

23      3. All moneys received as gifts, grants, or donations under this section are appropriated  
24      ~~as~~ on a continuing appropriation ~~basis~~ to the state health council for the purpose of  
25      providing funds for the repayment of additional veterinarians' education  
26      ~~loans~~ increasing the number of veterinarians participating in the loan repayment  
27      program under this chapter.

28      ~~**SECTION 6. A new section to chapter 43-29.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created**~~  
29      ~~**and enacted as follows:**~~

- 1    ~~—— **Administrative costs - Allowable percentage.**~~
- 2    ~~—— The state department of health may expend no more than seven percent of the~~
- 3    ~~appropriated moneys and the state veterinarian may expend no more than three percent of the~~
- 4    ~~appropriated moneys for administration of the veterinarian loan repayment program, in~~
- 5    ~~accordance with this chapter.~~