

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program Act.

6 Section 15. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "College" means the College of Veterinary Medicine of the  
8 University of Illinois.

9 "Program" means the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment  
10 Program established under this Act.

11 "University" means the University of Illinois.

12 Section 20. Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program.

13 (a) There is hereby created a veterinary training program  
14 for large animal and public health veterinary medicine, which  
15 shall be known as the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program  
16 and administered through the University of Illinois.

17 (b) The purpose of the Program is to provide encouragement,  
18 opportunities, and incentives for persons pursuing a  
19 veterinary medicine degree program at the University of  
20 Illinois to engage, upon completion of such education program,  
21 in (i) veterinary practice that is at least 51% devoted to  
22 large animal medicine that enhances agricultural animal health

1 and productivity or (ii) regulatory veterinary medicine that  
2 supports public health and safety, livestock biosecurity, or  
3 food animal disease diagnosis.

4 (c) Subject to appropriation and upon recommendation of the  
5 College, the University may enter into a program agreement with  
6 up to 4 veterinary students during the first year of operation  
7 of the Program; up to 8 veterinary students during the second  
8 year of operation of the Program; up to 12 veterinary students  
9 during the third year of operation of the Program; and up to 16  
10 veterinary students during the fourth year of operation of the  
11 Program and every year thereafter until the expiration of the  
12 Program, as set forth in Section 40 of this Act. Preference  
13 must be given to those students who are Illinois residents.  
14 Each student entering into a program agreement shall receive a  
15 loan in the amount of \$20,000 per year to cover tuition, books,  
16 supplies and other school expenses and travel and training  
17 expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary  
18 medicine degree. A student may be the recipient of a loan under  
19 the Program for no more than 4 years.

20 (d) Upon the satisfaction of all commitments made under the  
21 Program and all provisions of the program agreement, all loans  
22 disbursed to a student under the Program shall be deemed  
23 satisfied and forgiven.

24 Section 25. Program agreement.

25 (a) Prior to receiving a loan under the Program, each loan

1 recipient must sign an agreement pledging that he or she shall:

2 (1) complete the veterinary medicine degree program at  
3 the College;

4 (2) complete all advanced training in public health,  
5 livestock biosecurity, foreign animal disease diagnosis,  
6 regulatory veterinary medicine and zoonotic disease and  
7 complete an externship and mentorship with a licensed,  
8 accredited veterinarian in Illinois who practices in one of  
9 the areas of veterinary service need identified in this Act  
10 and as required by the University;

11 (3) engage in the full-time practice of veterinary  
12 medicine in any of the identified areas of veterinary  
13 service need identified in this Act;

14 (4) practice full-time for a period of at least 12  
15 continuous months for each separate year that he or she  
16 received a loan under the Program, unless such obligation  
17 is otherwise satisfied as provided in this Act; and

18 (5) commence the full-time practice required under  
19 this Section within 180 days after completion of his or her  
20 degree program or, if he or she enters a post-degree  
21 training program such as a graduate school or internship or  
22 residency program, within 90 days after completion of that  
23 post-degree training program.

24 (b) The fulfillment of obligations set forth in the program  
25 agreement may be postponed under any of the following  
26 circumstances:

1           (1) Any period of temporary medical disability during  
2           which the loan recipient is unable to practice veterinary  
3           medicine due to such disability.

4           (2) Any period of time in which the loan recipient is  
5           engaged in mandatory military service as part of the U.S.  
6           Armed Forces.

7           (3) Any other period of postponement agreed to or  
8           determined in accordance with criteria agreed to in the  
9           program agreement.

10          (c) The obligations of a program agreement shall be  
11          discharged prematurely upon the death of the loan recipient or  
12          in the event that the loan recipient is unable to practice  
13          veterinary medicine due to permanent disability.

14          Section 30. Failure to satisfy program agreement. Upon the  
15          failure of a loan recipient to satisfy the obligations set  
16          forth in the program agreement, he or she must repay to the  
17          University the amount equal to the amount loaned to the  
18          recipient less a prorated amount based on any periods of  
19          practice of veterinary medicine meeting the requirements of the  
20          program agreement, plus interest at a rate of 18% interest per  
21          year beginning on the date of the failure to satisfy the  
22          program requirement. Such interest shall be compounded  
23          annually.

24          Section 35. Collected payments. Payments received by the

1 University in accordance with this Act shall be deposited with  
2 the University for the purpose of supporting the Program, which  
3 shall include providing funding for additional loans as  
4 provided for under this Act, and administrative costs  
5 associated with administering the Program.

6 Section 40. Expiration of Program. The University may not  
7 enter into any program agreement under the Program or the  
8 provisions of this Act after July 1, 2019. All program  
9 agreements entered into prior to July 1, 2019 shall continue in  
10 full force and effect, subject to the requirements of this Act.

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
12 becoming law.