

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona veterinary loan assistance program

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SB 1271

Introduced by
Senator Shope

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 3, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 3-109.03; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO VETERINARIANS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 3, chapter 1, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 3-109.03, to read:

4 3-109.03. Arizona veterinary loan assistance program; fund;
5 advisory committee; annual report; rules;
6 definitions

7 A. THE ARIZONA VETERINARY LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED
8 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

9 B. THE ARIZONA VETERINARY LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND IS ESTABLISHED
10 CONSISTING OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER
11 THE FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED AND ARE EXEMPT
12 FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 35-190 RELATING TO LAPSING OF
13 APPROPRIATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE MONIES IN THE FUND FOR THE
14 PURPOSES PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION AND MAY RETAIN UP TO THREE PERCENT OF
15 THE MONIES DEPOSITED IN THE FUND FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ADMINISTERING
16 THE PROGRAM.

17 C. A PERSON WHO OBTAINS A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DEGREE FROM
18 A VETERINARY COLLEGE AFTER JANUARY 1, 2023 AND WHO SIGNS AN AGREEMENT
19 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT TO
20 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

21 D. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE AN
22 APPLICANT TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO BOTH:

23 1. REMAIN AND WORK AS A FULL-TIME VETERINARIAN IN THIS STATE FOR
24 THE FOLLOWING FOUR YEARS.

25 2. WORK IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PRACTICE AREAS FOR AT LEAST TWO OF
26 THE FOUR YEARS:

27 (a) AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE IN AN AREA DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED
28 STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS HAVING A SHORTAGE.

29 (b) A NONPROFIT OR MUNICIPAL SHELTER.

30 E. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOUR-YEAR COMMITMENT DESCRIBED IN
31 SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE
32 VETERINARIAN SATISFIED THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
33 D OF THIS SECTION. IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE VETERINARIAN
34 SATISFIED THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION D OF THIS
35 SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO THE VETERINARIAN FROM THE
36 ARIZONA VETERINARY LOAN ASSISTANCE FUND AN AMOUNT THAT IS EQUAL TO THE
37 AMOUNT OF TUITION THE VETERINARIAN PAID TO ATTEND VETERINARY COLLEGE OR
38 \$100,000, WHICHEVER IS LESS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE MONIES FROM
39 THE FUND ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

40 F. THE ARIZONA VETERINARY LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADVISORY
41 COMMITTEE IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO ARE
42 APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR:

43 1. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE VETERINARY COLLEGE OF A PRIVATE
44 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE.

