

Senate Engrossed

Arizona veterinary loan assistance program

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

SENATE BILL 1271

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, COUNTY 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 THE VETERINARIAN'S OUTSTANDING VETERINARY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL
38 LOAN BALANCE OR \$100,000, WHICHEVER IS LESS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
39 DISTRIBUTE MONIES FROM THE FUND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF MONIES AND
40 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION AND ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. FOR
41 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, "EDUCATIONAL LOAN BALANCE" MEANS THE
42 BALANCE OF THE PRINCIPAL, INTEREST AND RELATED EXPENSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL
43 LOAN.

1 F. THE ARIZONA VETERINARY LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADVISORY
2 COMMITTEE IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO ARE
3 APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR:

4 1. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE VETERINARY COLLEGE OF A PRIVATE
5 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION IN THIS STATE.

6 2. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF
7 VETERINARY MEDICINE.

8 3. A RURAL AGRICULTURAL VETERINARIAN.

9 4. A SHELTER VETERINARIAN.

10 5. A VETERINARIAN IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

11 G. THE ARIZONA VETERINARY LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADVISORY
12 COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE DIRECTOR AND SHALL ADVISE THE
13 DEPARTMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

14 H. ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
15 COMPILE A REPORT THAT DETAILS HOW THE ARIZONA VETERINARY LOAN ASSISTANCE
16 FUND MONIES ARE BEING SPENT AND SHALL SUBMIT THIS REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR,
17 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A COPY OF THIS REPORT TO THE
19 SECRETARY OF STATE.

20 I. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT RULES FOR THE PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT
21 THIS SECTION.

22 J. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

23 1. "VETERINARIAN" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION
24 32-2201.

25 2. "VETERINARY COLLEGE" HAS THE SAME MEANING PRESCRIBED IN SECTION
26 32-2201.

27 Sec. 2. Appropriation; Arizona veterinary loan assistance
28 fund

29 The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in
30 fiscal year 2022-2023 to the Arizona veterinary loan assistance fund
31 established by section 3-109.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by
32 this act.