

**VETERINARIAN EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht**

Senate Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program within the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- specifies the program's duties;
- specifies what a qualified veterinarian must do to be eligible for payment from the program;
- authorizes the use of program funding for certain program administration costs;
- requires annual reporting by the program;
- authorizes rulemaking to administer the program;
- designates program funding as nonlapsing; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2024:

- to the Department of Agriculture and Food – Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program – Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program as a one-time appropriation:
  - from the General Fund, One-time, \$2,500,000.

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**63J-1-602.2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 59, 68, 154, 224, 236, 242, and 447 and last amended by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 154

ENACTS:

**4-2-901**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**4-2-902**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **4-2-901** is enacted to read:

**4-2-901. Definitions.**

As used in this part:

(1) "Animal shelter" means the same as that term is defined in Section 11-46-102.

(2) "Education loan" means a loan received for education at a domestic or foreign institution of higher education, including a school or college of veterinary medicine.

(3) "Education loan balance" includes charges for paying off the balance of the loan.

(4) "Indian country" means the same as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.

(5) "Loan" means a loan that is made directly by, insured by, or guaranteed under a government program of:

(a) a state;

(b) the United States; or

(c) a foreign government.

(6) "Maximum payment value" means the lesser of:

(a) the sum of a qualified veterinarian's education loan balances; or

(b) \$100,000.

(7) "Program" means the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program created in

Section 4-2-902.

(8) "Qualified veterinarian" means a veterinarian who has practiced as a veterinarian for five or more consecutive years beginning on or after May 3, 2023:

(a) in an area of the state:

(i) designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as a veterinary shortage situation during at least one of the five years; or

(ii) that is Indian country;

(b) in an animal shelter within the state operated by:

(i) a county;

(ii) a municipality; or

(iii) an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code;

(c) in any area of the state as an employee of the department; or

(d) in any combination of the places described in Subsections (8)(a) through (c).

(9) "Veterinarian" means an individual licensed under Title 58, Chapter 28, Veterinary Practice Act.

Section 2. Section **4-2-902** is enacted to read:

**4-2-902. Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program.**

(1) There is created within the department the Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program.

(2) (a) Beginning July 1, 2028, the program shall on a first-come, first-served basis make payments toward a qualified veterinarian's education loan balances.

(b) A veterinarian is eligible for payments under Subsection (2)(a) if the veterinarian:

(i) applies as a qualified veterinarian for payment from the program; and

(ii) registers with the program at least five years before the day the veterinarian applies under Subsection (2)(b)(i) for payment.

(c) Payments made under Subsection (2)(a) shall:

(i) be made directly to one or more of the qualified veterinarian's lenders; and

(ii) as funding for the program permits, in total equal the maximum payment value.

(3) The department may use 2% or less of the amount appropriated for the program to pay for actual costs of administering the program.

(4) On or before October 1 each year, the department shall submit a report of the program's revenues, expenditures, and outcomes to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee and the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee.

(5) The department may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to administer the program, including rules specifying how a veterinarian may register intent to apply for payment from the program.

Section 3. Section **63J-1-602.2** is amended to read:

**63J-1-602.2. List of nonlapsing appropriations to programs.**

Appropriations made to the following programs are nonlapsing:

(1) The Legislature and the Legislature's committees.

(2) The State Board of Education, including all appropriations to agencies, line items, and programs under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education, in accordance with Section **53F-9-103**.

(3) The Percent-for-Art Program created in Section **9-6-404**.

(4) The LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Program created in Section **4-46-301**.

(5) The Utah Lake Authority created in Section **11-65-201**.

(6) Dedicated credits accrued to the Utah Marriage Commission as provided under Subsection **17-16-21(2)(d)(ii)**.

(7) The Division of Wildlife Resources for the appraisal and purchase of lands under the Pelican Management Act, as provided in Section **23-21a-6**.

(8) The Emergency Medical Services Grant Program in Section **26-8a-207**.

(9) The primary care grant program created in Section **26-10b-102**.

(10) Sanctions collected as dedicated credits from Medicaid providers under

- 114 Subsection 26-18-3(7).
- 115 (11) The Utah Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program created in Section  
116 26-46-102.
- 117 (12) The Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program created in Section 26-46a-103.
- 118 (13) The Opiate Overdose Outreach Pilot Program created in Section 26-55-107.
- 119 (14) The Utah Medical Education Council for the:
- 120 (a) administration of the Utah Medical Education Program created in Section  
121 26-69-403;
- 122 (b) provision of medical residency grants described in Section 26-69-407; and
- 123 (c) provision of the forensic psychiatric fellowship grant described in Section  
124 26-69-408.
- 125 (15) Funds that the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services retains in accordance  
126 with Subsection 32B-2-301(8)(a) or (b).
- 127 (16) The General Assistance program administered by the Department of Workforce  
128 Services, as provided in Section 35A-3-401.
- 129 (17) The Utah National Guard, created in Title 39, Militia and Armories.
- 130 (18) The State Tax Commission under Section 41-1a-1201 for the:
- 131 (a) purchase and distribution of license plates and decals; and
- 132 (b) administration and enforcement of motor vehicle registration requirements.
- 133 (19) The Search and Rescue Financial Assistance Program, as provided in Section  
134 53-2a-1102.
- 135 (20) The Motorcycle Rider Education Program, as provided in Section 53-3-905.
- 136 (21) The Utah Board of Higher Education for teacher preparation programs, as  
137 provided in Section 53B-6-104.
- 138 (22) Innovation grants under Section 53G-10-608, except as provided in Subsection  
139 53G-10-608(6).
- 140 (23) The Division of Services for People with Disabilities, as provided in Section  
141 62A-5-102.

(24) The Division of Fleet Operations for the purpose of upgrading underground storage tanks under Section 63A-9-401.

(25) The Utah Seismic Safety Commission, as provided in Section 63C-6-104.

(26) The Division of Technology Services for technology innovation as provided under Section 63A-16-903.

(27) The Office of Administrative Rules for publishing, as provided in Section 63G-3-402.

(28) The Colorado River Authority of Utah, created in Title 63M, Chapter 14, Colorado River Authority of Utah Act.

(29) The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity to fund the Enterprise Zone Act, as provided in Title 63N, Chapter 2, Part 2, Enterprise Zone Act.

(30) The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity's Rural Employment Expansion Program, as described in Title 63N, Chapter 4, Part 4, Rural Employment Expansion Program.

(31) Programs for the Jordan River Recreation Area as described in Section 65A-2-8.

(32) The Division of Human Resource Management user training program, as provided in Section 63A-17-106.

(33) A public safety answering point's emergency telecommunications service fund, as provided in Section 69-2-301.

(34) The Traffic Noise Abatement Program created in Section 72-6-112.

(35) The money appropriated from the Navajo Water Rights Negotiation Account to the Division of Water Rights, created in Section 73-2-1.1, for purposes of participating in a settlement of federal reserved water right claims.

(36) The Judicial Council for compensation for special prosecutors, as provided in Section 77-10a-19.

(37) A state rehabilitative employment program, as provided in Section 78A-6-210.

(38) The Utah Geological Survey, as provided in Section 79-3-401.

(39) The Bonneville Shoreline Trail Program created under Section 79-5-503.

(40) Adoption document access as provided in Sections 78B-6-141, 78B-6-144, and

78B-6-144.5.

(41) Indigent defense as provided in Title 78B, Chapter 22, Part 4, Utah Indigent Defense Commission.

(42) The program established by the Division of Facilities Construction and Management under Section 63A-5b-703 under which state agencies receive an appropriation and pay lease payments for the use and occupancy of buildings owned by the Division of Facilities Construction and Management.

(43) The State Tax Commission for reimbursing counties for deferred property taxes in accordance with Section 59-2-1802.

(44) The Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program created in Section 4-2-902.

Section 4. **Appropriation.**

The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for fiscal year 2024. Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

ITEM 1

To Department of Agriculture and Food – Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program

<u>From General Fund, One-time</u>	<u>2,500,000</u>
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Schedule of Programs:

<u>Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program</u>	<u>2,500,000</u>
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