

# SENATE BILL NO. 529

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BROWN (16).

2064S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to the large animal veterinary medicine loan repayment program.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384,  
2 and 340.387, RSMo, are repealed and five new sections enacted  
3 in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 340.341, 340.345,  
4 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, to read as follows:

340.341. 1. The department shall adopt and promulgate  
2 rules establishing standards for determining eligible  
3 students for loan repayment pursuant to sections 340.335 to  
4 340.350. Such standards shall include, but are not limited  
5 to the following:

6 (1) Citizenship or lawful permanent residency in the  
7 United States;

8 (2) Residence in the state of Missouri;

9 (3) Enrollment as a full-time veterinary medical  
10 student in the final year of a course of study offered by an  
11 approved educational institution in Missouri;

12 (4) Application for loan repayment.

13 2. The department shall not grant repayment for more  
14 than ~~[six]~~ **twelve** veterinarians each year.

340.345. 1. A loan payment provided for an individual  
2 pursuant to a written contract under the large animal

**EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

3 veterinary medicine loan repayment program shall consist of  
4 payment on behalf of the individual of the principal,  
5 interest and related expenses on government and commercial  
6 loans received by the individual for tuition, fees, books,  
7 laboratory and living expenses incurred by the individual.

8 2. For each year of obligated services that an  
9 individual contracts to serve in an area of defined need,  
10 the department may pay up to **[twenty] thirty** thousand  
11 dollars on behalf of the individual for loans described in  
12 subsection 1 of this section.

13 3. The department may enter into an agreement with the  
14 holder of the loans for which repayments are made under the  
15 large animal veterinary medicine loan repayment program to  
16 establish a schedule for the making of such payments if the  
17 establishment of such a schedule would result in reducing  
18 the costs to the state.

19 4. Any qualifying communities providing a portion of a  
20 loan repayment shall be considered first for placement.

340.381. 1. Sections 340.381 to 340.396 establish a  
2 student loan forgiveness program for approved veterinary  
3 students who practice in areas of defined need. Such  
4 program shall be known as the "Dr. Merrill Townley **and Dan**  
5 **Brown** Large Animal Veterinary Student Loan Program".

6 2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the  
7 "Veterinary Student Loan Payment Fund", which shall consist  
8 of general revenue appropriated to the large animal  
9 veterinary student loan program, voluntary contributions to  
10 support or match program activities, money collected under  
11 section 340.396, **any private grant, gift, donation, devise,**  
12 **or bequest of moneys, funds, real or personal property, or**  
13 **other assets**, and funds received from the federal  
14 government. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the

15 fund and shall approve disbursements from the fund in  
16 accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180. Upon  
17 appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for  
18 the administration of sections 340.381 to 340.396.  
19 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the  
20 contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the  
21 biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general  
22 revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in  
23 the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested.  
24 Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be  
25 credited to the fund.

340.384. 1. Eligible students may apply to the  
2 department for financial assistance under the provisions of  
3 sections 340.381 to 340.396. If, at the time of application  
4 for a loan, a student has formally applied for acceptance at  
5 the college, receipt of financial assistance is contingent  
6 upon acceptance and continued enrollment at the college. A  
7 qualified applicant may receive financial assistance up to  
8 **[twenty] thirty** thousand dollars for each academic year he  
9 or she remains a student in good standing at the college,  
10 provided that the cumulative total shall not exceed **[eighty]**  
11 **one hundred twenty** thousand dollars per qualified  
12 applicant. An eligible student may apply for financial  
13 assistance under this section at any point in his or her  
14 educational career at the college, however any such  
15 financial assistance shall only be awarded for current or  
16 future academic years, as applicable, and shall not be  
17 awarded for any academic year completed prior to the time of  
18 application.

19 2. Up to **[six] twelve** qualified applicants per  
20 academic year may be awarded loans under the provisions of  
21 sections 340.381 to 340.396. **The department may increase**

22 beyond twelve the number of qualified applicants that may be  
23 awarded such loans per academic year if the amount of any  
24 additional moneys from private grants, gifts, donations,  
25 devises, or bequests of moneys, funds, real or personal  
26 property, or other assets deposited in the veterinary  
27 student loan payment fund allows the full funding of such  
28 increase in the number of applicants. Priority for loans  
29 shall be given to eligible students who have established  
30 financial need. All financial assistance shall be made from  
31 funds credited to the veterinary student loan payment fund.

340.387. 1. The department of agriculture may enter  
2 into a contract with each qualified applicant receiving  
3 financial assistance under the provisions of sections  
4 340.381 to 340.396. Such contract shall specify terms and  
5 conditions of loan forgiveness through qualified employment  
6 as well as terms and conditions for repayment of the  
7 principal and interest.

8 2. The department shall establish schedules for  
9 repayment of the principal and interest on any financial  
10 assistance made under the provisions of sections 340.381 to  
11 340.396. Interest at a rate set by the department, with the  
12 advice of the advisory panel created in section [340.341]  
13 **340.375**, shall be charged from the time of the payment of  
14 financial assistance on all financial assistance made under  
15 the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396, but the  
16 interest and principal of the total financial assistance  
17 granted to a qualified applicant at the time of the  
18 successful completion of a doctor of veterinary medicine  
19 degree program shall be forgiven through qualified  
20 employment.

21 3. For each year of qualified employment that an  
22 individual contracts to serve in an area of defined need,

23 the department shall forgive up to [twenty] **thirty** thousand  
24 dollars and accrued interest thereon on behalf of the  
25 individual for financial assistance provided under sections  
26 340.381 to 340.396.

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