

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 1172

Introduced by Dierks, 40; Dubas, 34; McDonald, 41.

Read first time January 23, 2008

Committee: Agriculture

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to agriculture; to adopt the Food Supply Animal
2 Veterinary Incentive Program Act; and to state funding
3 intent.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known and
2 may be cited as the Food Supply Animal Veterinary Incentive Program
3 Act.

4 Sec. 2. For purposes of the Food Supply Animal Veterinary
5 Incentive Program Act:

6 (1) Department means the Department of Agriculture;

7 (2) Food supply animal includes cattle, hogs, sheep,
8 goats, and poultry;

9 (3) Food supply animal veterinarian means a veterinarian
10 who is engaged in general or food supply animal practice as his
11 or her primary focus of practice and who has a substantial portion
12 of his or her practice devoted to food supply animal veterinary
13 medicine;

14 (4) Program means the Food Supply Animal Veterinary
15 Incentive Program; and

16 (5) Rural mixed animal veterinary practice means practice
17 as a food supply animal veterinarian in a rural area and a
18 substantial portion of the practice involves food supply animal
19 veterinary practice.

20 Sec. 3. Each year the department shall select from a pool
21 of applicants four veterinarians to participate in the program.
22 The selected veterinarians are eligible to receive up to eighty
23 thousand dollars under the program as an incentive to locate in
24 rural Nebraska and practice food supply animal veterinary medicine.

25 Sec. 4. (1) To be eligible for funds under the program,

1 an applicant shall:

2 (a) Be a graduate of an approved veterinary medical
3 school;

4 (b) Be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in this
5 state;

6 (c) Contract to provide full-time veterinary medicine
7 services in a rural mixed animal veterinary practice for four years
8 in one or more communities approved by the department; and

9 (d) Be accredited by the United States Department of
10 Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service, Veterinary
11 Services to provide services relating to food supply animals by the
12 end of the first year of service.

13 (2) Rural communities that are located in areas
14 designated as shortage areas for food supply animal veterinary
15 medical services, as such areas are designated by the American
16 Veterinary Medical Association on the effective date of this act,
17 shall have preference as communities approved for contracts under
18 the program.

19 Sec. 5. (1) Program funds shall be distributed as
20 follows:

21 (a) After completing the first year of service under the
22 contract, the veterinarian is eligible to receive up to fifteen
23 thousand dollars;

24 (b) After completing the second year of service under the
25 contract, the veterinarian is eligible to receive up to fifteen

1 thousand dollars;

2 (c) After completing the third year of service under the
3 contract, the veterinarian is eligible to receive up to twenty-five
4 thousand dollars; and

5 (d) After completing the fourth year of service under the
6 contract, the veterinarian is eligible to receive up to twenty-five
7 thousand dollars.

8 (2) If the veterinarian does not complete an entire year
9 of service, the amount distributed under this section for that year
10 shall be prorated.

11 Sec. 6. (1) A veterinarian shall be released from the
12 program contract without penalty if:

13 (a) The veterinarian has completed the service
14 requirements of the contract;

15 (b) The veterinarian is unable to complete the service
16 requirement of the contract because of a permanent physical
17 disability;

18 (c) The veterinarian demonstrates extreme hardship or
19 shows other good cause justifying the release; or

20 (d) The veterinarian dies.

21 (2) A veterinarian may be released from the program
22 contract if the veterinarian's license to practice in Nebraska or
23 federal accreditation is suspended or revoked.

24 (3) The State of Nebraska shall be released from
25 any further obligation under the Food Supply Animal Veterinary

1 Incentive Program Act or any contract entered into with a
2 veterinarian under the act if the veterinarian is released from the
3 program pursuant to this section.

4 Sec. 7. The Food Supply Animal Veterinary Incentive Fund
5 is created. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
6 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska
7 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

8 Sec. 8. The department shall adopt and promulgate rules
9 and regulations to carry out the Food Supply Animal Veterinary
10 Incentive Program Act.

11 Sec. 9. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Food
12 Supply Animal Veterinary Incentive Program Act be funded by General
13 Fund appropriations.