

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 403

AN ACT

To repeal sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to animals.

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Section A. Sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, RSMo, are repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 67.142, 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, and 340.387, to read as follows:

67.142. 1. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit in any manner the authority of any village; town; city, including any home rule city; or county to prohibit dogs from running at large or to further control or regulate dogs within its boundaries, provided that no such ordinance, order, policy, or regulation is specific to breed.

2. The general assembly hereby occupies and preempts the entire field of legislation regarding in any way the control or regulation of specific breeds of dogs to the complete exclusion of any order, ordinance, policy, or regulation by any village; town; city, including any home rule city; or county in this state. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section, any existing or future order, ordinance, policy, or regulation in this field shall be null and void.

3. Any village; town; city, including any home rule city; or county with an existing breed-specific order, ordinance, policy, or regulation in effect on or before August 28, 2023, shall have until February 28, 2025, to bring such order, ordinance, policy, or regulation into

compliance with this section. After February 28, 2025, all noncompliant breed specific orders, ordinances, policies, and regulations shall be unenforceable.

4. Nothing in this chapter shall infringe the ability of any village; town; city, including any home rule city; or county to enact and enforce a vicious dog order, ordinance, policy, or regulation if the order, ordinance, policy, or regulation is not specific to breed.

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

- (1) Citizenship or lawful permanent residency in the United States;
- (2) Residence in the state of Missouri;
- (3) Enrollment as a full-time veterinary medical student in the final year of a course of study offered by an approved educational institution in Missouri;
- (4) Application for loan repayment.

2. The department shall not grant repayment for more than ~~six~~ twelve veterinarians each year.

340.345. 1. A loan payment provided for an individual pursuant to a written contract under the large animal veterinary medicine loan repayment program shall consist of payment on behalf of the individual of the principal, interest and related expenses on government and commercial loans received by the individual for tuition, fees, books, laboratory and living expenses incurred by the individual.

2. For each year of obligated services that an individual contracts to serve in an area of defined need, the department may pay up to ~~twenty~~ thirty thousand

dollars on behalf of the individual for loans described in subsection 1 of this section.

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

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

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

2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Veterinary Student Loan Payment Fund", which shall consist of general revenue appropriated to the large animal veterinary student loan program, voluntary contributions to support or match program activities, money collected under section 340.396, any private grant, gift, donation, devise, or bequest of moneys, funds, real or personal property, or other assets, and funds received from the federal government. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and shall approve disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of sections 340.381 to 340.396. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested.

Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

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

2. Up to ~~[six]~~ twelve qualified applicants per academic year may be awarded loans under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396. The department may increase beyond twelve the number of qualified applicants that may be awarded such loans per academic year if the amount of any additional moneys from private grants, gifts, donations, devises, or bequests of moneys, funds, real or personal property, or other assets deposited in the veterinary student loan payment fund allows the full funding of such increase in the number of applicants. Priority for loans shall be given to eligible students who have established financial need. All financial assistance shall be made from funds credited to the veterinary student loan payment fund.

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

2. The department shall establish schedules for repayment of the principal and interest on any financial assistance made under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396. Interest at a rate set by the department, with the advice of the advisory panel created in section ~~340.341~~ 340.375, shall be charged from the time of the payment of financial assistance on all financial assistance made under the provisions of sections 340.381 to 340.396, but the interest and principal of the total financial assistance granted to a qualified applicant at the time of the successful completion of a doctor of veterinary medicine degree program shall be forgiven through qualified employment.

3. For each year of qualified employment that an individual contracts to serve in an area of defined need, the department shall forgive up to ~~twenty~~ thirty thousand dollars and accrued interest thereon on behalf of the individual for financial assistance provided under sections 340.381 to 340.396.