

Chapter 3 Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program

4741-3-01 Purpose.

The board shall provide, in conjunction with the Ohio board of regents, a veterinarian student loan repayment program which would provide reimbursement for tuition; other educational expenses and/or room and board up to twenty thousand dollars in exchange for the veterinarian signing a letter of intent to provide large animal veterinary services or to protect public health in a veterinary resource shortage area identified by the board.

4741-3-02 Definitions

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

- (A) “Board” means the Ohio veterinary medical licensing board.
- (B) “Large animal veterinary services” means veterinary services provided to any cattle, sheep, goat, swine, poultry, or draft horse used for food or in the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer product.
- (C) “Livestock” means cattle, swine, sheep goats, poultry, and draft horses.
- (D) “Veterinary services necessary to implement or enforce the law” means services provided by veterinarians employed by local, state, or federal agencies or by licensed, accredited veterinary practitioners that implement or enforce regulations that ensure the health of the nation’s livestock and animal populations and to protect the public health and well-being.
- (E) “Veterinary services necessary to protect public health” means the availability of a licensed, accredited veterinarian to provide routine and emergency services to livestock on a full time basis.

4741-3-03 Veterinary resource shortage area.

A geographic area or region of Ohio will be considered as a veterinary resource shortage area if veterinary service is not available to livestock producers within that region.

4741-3-04 Criteria for prioritizing underserved areas.

Factors to be considered by the Ohio Board of Regents in determining priorities for determining underserved areas include, but not limited to:

- (A) Size of the geographic area to be serviced;
- (B) Number of livestock farms in the area;
- (C) Livestock population within the area;
- (D) Number of veterinarians providing both routine and emergency services to the livestock producers in the area;
- (E) Distance to closest available veterinary practice that provides large animal services;
- (F) Presence of an auction market, concentration point, or slaughter facility in the area; and

- (G) Supporting letters or documents from elected public officials (e.g. county commissioners), representatives of the Ohio Department of Agriculture or Ohio Health Department, or Cooperative Extensive Service.

4741-3-05 Criteria for selection of applicants.

- (A) Purpose: The shortage area situations will be best served by a veterinarian who is likely to enthusiastically serve a community and who is likely to remain within that community after their payments from the loan repayment program have been terminated.
- (B) The veterinarian applying for participation should submit a biography and a personal statement explaining their motivation in serving in veterinary shortage situations.
- (C) In addition to requiring the applicant to possess an Ohio Veterinary license in good standing and be federally accredited, the Ohio Board of Regents should consider the following factors in the selection process:
 - 1) Percentage of professional activities to be devoted to food animal practice and veterinary public health activities;
 - 2) Types and number of elective courses or continuing education courses in food animal medicine and production medicine;
 - 3) Preference for a rural background and/or experience in production agriculture;
 - 4) Is from the underserved area or has family ties to the area; and
 - 5) Length of time applicant is willing to practice in the area.