

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1053

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2011

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterinary Services
5 Investment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
3 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after
4 section 1415A (7 U.S.C. 3151a) the following:

5 **“SEC. 1415B. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term ‘qualified
8 entity’ means—

9 “(A) a for-profit or nonprofit entity located
10 in the United States that operates a veterinary
11 clinic providing veterinary services—

12 “(i) in a rural area, as defined in sec-
13 tion 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
14 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1991(a)); and

16 “(ii) in response to a veterinarian
17 shortage situation;

18 “(B) a State, national, allied, or regional
19 veterinary organization or specialty board rec-
20 ognized by the American Veterinary Medical
21 Association;

22 “(C) a college or school of veterinary medi-
23 cine accredited by the American Veterinary
24 Medical Association;

25 “(D) a university research foundation or
26 veterinary medical foundation;

1 “(E) a department of veterinary science or
2 department of comparative medicine accredited
3 by the Department of Education;

4 “(F) a State agricultural experiment sta-
5 tion; and

6 “(G) a State, local, or tribal government
7 agency.

8 “(2) VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATION.—
9 The term ‘veterinarian shortage situation’ means a
10 veterinarian shortage situation determined by the
11 Secretary under section 1415A(b).

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

13 “(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary
14 shall carry out a program to make competitive
15 grants to qualified entities that carry out programs
16 or activities described in paragraph (2) for the pur-
17 pose of developing, implementing, and sustaining
18 veterinary services.

19 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligi-
20 ble to receive a grant described paragraph (1), a
21 qualified entity shall carry out programs or activities
22 that the Secretary determines will—

23 “(A) substantially relieve veterinarian
24 shortage situations;

1 “(B) support or facilitate private veteri-
2 nary practices engaged in public health activi-
3 ties; or

4 “(C) support or facilitate the practices of
5 veterinarians who are participating in or have
6 successfully completed a service requirement
7 under section 1415A(a)(2).

8 “(c) AWARD PROCESSES AND PREFERENCES.—

9 “(1) APPLICATION, EVALUATION, AND INPUT
10 PROCESSES.—In administering the grant program
11 under this section, the Secretary shall—

12 “(A) use an appropriate application and
13 evaluation process, as determined by the Sec-
14 retary; and

15 “(B) seek the input of interested persons.

16 “(2) GRANT PREFERENCES.—In selecting re-
17 cipients of grants to be used for any of the purposes
18 described in paragraphs (2) through (6) of sub-
19 section (d), the Secretary shall give a preference to
20 qualified entities that provide documentation of co-
21 ordination with other qualified entities, with respect
22 to any such purpose.

23 “(3) ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.—In awarding
24 grants under this section, the Secretary may develop
25 additional preferences by taking into account the

1 amount of funds available for grants and the pur-
2 poses for which the grant funds will be used.

3 “(4) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—
4 Sections 1413B, 1462(a), 1469(a)(3), 1469(c), and
5 1470 apply to the administration of the grant pro-
6 gram under this section.

7 “(d) USE OF GRANTS TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN
8 SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY
9 SERVICES.—A qualified entity may use funds provided by
10 grants under this section to relieve veterinarian shortage
11 situations and support veterinary services for the following
12 purposes:

13 “(1) To assist veterinarians with establishing or
14 expanding practices for the purpose of—

15 “(A) equipping veterinary offices;

16 “(B) sharing in the reasonable overhead
17 costs of the practices, as determined by the Sec-
18 retary; or

19 “(C) establishing mobile veterinary facili-
20 ties in which a portion of the facilities will ad-
21 dress education or extension needs.

22 “(2) To promote recruitment (including for pro-
23 grams in secondary schools), placement, and reten-
24 tion of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, stu-

1 dents of veterinary medicine, and students of veteri-
2 nary technology.

3 “(3) To allow veterinary students, veterinary in-
4 terns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary
5 technician students to cover expenses (other than
6 the types of expenses described in 1415A(c)(5)) to
7 attend training programs in food safety or food ani-
8 mal medicine.

9 “(4) To establish or expand accredited veteri-
10 nary education programs (including faculty recruit-
11 ment and retention), veterinary residency and fellow-
12 ship programs, or veterinary internship and
13 externship programs carried out in coordination with
14 accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

15 “(5) To assess veterinarian shortage situations
16 and the preparation of applications submitted to the
17 Secretary for designation as a veterinarian shortage
18 situation under section 1415A(b).

19 “(6) To provide continuing education and ex-
20 tension, including veterinary telemedicine and other
21 distance-based education, for veterinarians, veteri-
22 nary technicians, and other health professionals
23 needed to strengthen veterinary programs and en-
24 hance food safety.

1 “(e) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN
2 GRANTS.—

3 “(1) TERMS OF SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants provided
5 under this section for the purpose specified in
6 subsection (d)(1) shall be subject to an agree-
7 ment between the Secretary and the grant re-
8 cipient that includes a required term of service
9 for the recipient, as established by the Sec-
10 retary.

11 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing a
12 term of service under subparagraph (A), the
13 Secretary shall consider only—

14 “(i) the amount of the grant awarded;

15 and

16 “(ii) the specific purpose of the grant.

17 “(2) BREACH REMEDIES.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An agreement under
19 paragraph (1) shall provide remedies for any
20 breach of the agreement by the grant recipient,
21 including repayment or partial repayment of the
22 grant funds, with interest.

23 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may grant
24 a waiver of the repayment obligation for breach
25 of contract if the Secretary determines that the

1 grant recipient demonstrates extreme hardship
2 or extreme need.

3 “(C) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECOVERED.—Funds recovered under this paragraph
4 shall—
5

6 “(i) be credited to the account available to carry out this section; and
7

8 “(ii) remain available until expended.

9 “(f) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(1) RECIPIENT SHARE.—Subject to paragraph
11 (2), to be eligible to receive a grant under this section,
12 a qualified entity shall provide matching non-Federal
13 funds, either in cash or in-kind support, in an amount equal
14 to not less than 25 percent of the Federal funds provided
15 by the grant.

16 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may establish, by
17 regulation, conditions under which the cost-sharing
18 requirements of paragraph (1) may be reduced or
19 waived.

20 “(g) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR
21 CONSTRUCTION.—Funds made available for grants under
22 this section may not be used—

23 “(1) to construct a new building or facility; or

1 “(2) to acquire, expand, remodel, or alter an ex-
2 isting building or facility, including site grading and
3 improvement and architect fees.

4 “(h) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pro-
6 mulgate regulations to carry out this section.

7 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
9 out this section \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and each
10 fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until ex-
11 pended.”.

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