

1-1 By: Brown of Kaufman, et al. (Senate Sponsor-Estes) H.B. No. 1684  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 22, 2009;  
1-3 April 23, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 4, 2009, reported adversely,  
1-5 with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5,  
1-6 Nays 0; May 4, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1684 By: Jackson

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the creation and administration of the rural  
1-11 veterinarian loan repayment program.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 ARTICLE 1. RURAL VETERINARIAN LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

1-14 SECTION 1.01. Subchapter A, Chapter 487, Government Code,  
1-15 is amended by adding Section 487.003 to read as follows:

1-16 Sec. 487.003. REFERENCES. In this chapter and Chapter 487A,  
1-17 a reference to "this chapter" means Chapters 487 and 487A.

1-18 SECTION 1.02. Section 487.558(b), Government Code, is  
1-19 amended to read as follows:

1-20 (b) The fund is composed of:

1-21 (1) money transferred to the fund at the direction of  
1-22 the legislature;

1-23 (2) gifts and grants contributed to the fund;

1-24 (3) the returns received from investment of money in  
1-25 the fund; ~~and~~

1-26 (4) amounts recovered under Section 487.555(e); and

1-27 (5) amounts recovered under Section 487A.055(c).

1-28 SECTION 1.03. Section 487.559(f), Government Code, is  
1-29 amended to read as follows:

1-30 (f) The amount available for distribution from the fund,  
1-31 including any gift or grant, may be appropriated only for providing  
1-32 stipends and loan reimbursement under the programs authorized by  
1-33 this subchapter, for providing loan repayment assistance under  
1-34 Subchapter A, Chapter 487A, and to pay the expenses of managing the  
1-35 fund. Of the amount available for distribution from the fund not  
1-36 used to pay the expenses of managing the fund, one-half shall be  
1-37 appropriated for programs authorized by this subchapter and  
1-38 one-half shall be appropriated for providing loan repayment  
1-39 assistance under Subchapter A, Chapter 487A. The expenditure of a  
1-40 gift or grant is subject to any limitation or requirement placed on  
1-41 the gift or grant by the donor or granting entity.

1-42 SECTION 1.04. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is  
1-43 amended by adding Chapter 487A to read as follows:

1-44 CHAPTER 487A. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY OFFICE OF RURAL  
1-45 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1-46 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1-47 Sec. 487A.001. DEFINITIONS. The definitions in Chapter 487  
1-48 apply to this chapter.

1-49 [Sections 487A.002-487A.050 reserved for expansion]

1-50 SUBCHAPTER B. RURAL VETERINARIAN LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

1-51 Sec. 487A.051. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "designated  
1-52 rural area" means a rural geographic area in this state that the  
1-53 board by rule designates as rural for purposes of the loan repayment  
1-54 program under this subchapter.

1-55 Sec. 487A.052. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM. (a) In accordance  
1-56 with this subchapter and rules adopted by the board, the office  
1-57 shall establish and administer a program to provide loan repayment  
1-58 assistance to veterinarians who agree to practice veterinary  
1-59 medicine on livestock or deer in a designated rural area.

1-60 (b) The board may provide repayment assistance to a  
1-61 veterinarian for up to four years. The board shall determine the  
1-62 amount of repayment assistance to provide each year.

1-63 Sec. 487A.053. ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive loan

2-1 repayment assistance under this subchapter, a veterinarian must:  
2-2 (1) apply to the office;  
2-3 (2) be licensed to practice veterinary medicine in  
2-4 this state; and  
2-5 (3) enter into an agreement with the office as  
2-6 provided by Section 487A.055.  
2-7 Sec. 487A.054. ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The office may provide  
2-8 repayment assistance for the repayment of any education loan  
2-9 received by the veterinarian through any lender for education at  
2-10 any veterinary school that awards a degree that satisfies the  
2-11 veterinary study requirements to obtain a license to practice  
2-12 veterinary medicine in this state.  
2-13 (b) The office may not provide repayment assistance for an  
2-14 education loan that is in default at the time of the veterinarian's  
2-15 application.  
2-16 Sec. 487A.055. AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) To qualify for  
2-17 loan repayment assistance under this subchapter, a person must  
2-18 enter into a written agreement with the office as provided by this  
2-19 section. The agreement must:  
2-20 (1) specify the conditions the person must satisfy to  
2-21 receive repayment assistance;  
2-22 (2) require the person to practice veterinary medicine  
2-23 on livestock or deer for one full year in a designated rural area  
2-24 for each year the person receives loan repayment assistance under  
2-25 this subchapter;  
2-26 (3) provide that any repayment assistance the person  
2-27 receives under this subchapter constitutes a loan until the person  
2-28 completes the year of practice and satisfies other applicable  
2-29 conditions of the agreement; and  
2-30 (4) require the person to sign a promissory note  
2-31 acknowledging the conditional nature of the repayment assistance  
2-32 received and promising to repay the amount of that assistance plus  
2-33 applicable interest and reasonable collection costs if the person  
2-34 does not satisfy the applicable conditions.  
2-35 (b) The office shall determine the terms of the promissory  
2-36 note required by Subsection (a)(4). To the extent practicable, the  
2-37 terms must be the same as those applicable to state or federally  
2-38 guaranteed student loans made at the same time.  
2-39 (c) Amounts recovered under a promissory note required by  
2-40 Subsection (a)(4) shall be deposited in the permanent endowment  
2-41 fund for the rural communities health care investment program under  
2-42 Section 487.558.  
2-43 Sec. 487A.056. REPAYMENT. (a) The office shall deliver  
2-44 any repayment assistance made under this subchapter in a lump sum  
2-45 payable to the lender and the veterinarian and in accordance with  
2-46 any applicable federal law.  
2-47 (b) Loan repayment assistance received under this  
2-48 subchapter may be applied to the principal amount of the loan and to  
2-49 interest that accrues.  
2-50 Sec. 487A.057. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. (a) In  
2-51 addition to funds appropriated by the legislature, the office may  
2-52 solicit and accept grants, gifts, and donations from any public or  
2-53 private source for the purposes of this subchapter.  
2-54 (b) Gifts and grants received under this section shall be  
2-55 deposited in the permanent endowment fund for the rural communities  
2-56 health care investment program under Section 487.558.  
2-57 Sec. 487A.058. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules  
2-58 necessary to administer this subchapter.  
2-59 (b) The office shall distribute to each veterinary school in  
2-60 this state a copy of the rules adopted under this section.  
2-61 SECTION 1.05. The board of the Office of Rural Community  
2-62 Affairs shall adopt rules for the rural veterinarian loan repayment  
2-63 program under Subchapter B, Chapter 487A, Government Code, as added  
2-64 by this article, not later than December 31, 2009.  
2-65 ARTICLE 2. DETERMINATION BY COMPTROLLER  
2-66 SECTION 2.01. (a) This Act does not make an appropriation.  
2-67 (b) Not later than August 31, 2009, the comptroller of  
2-68 public accounts shall make and publish in the Texas Register a  
2-69 determination whether a specific appropriation in an amount not

3-1 less than \$2,790,000 for the implementation of this Act is provided  
3-2 in a general appropriations act of the 81st Legislature, Regular  
3-3 Session.

3-4 ARTICLE 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

3-5 SECTION 3.01. Article 1 of this Act takes effect September  
3-6 1, 2009, but only if the comptroller of public accounts has  
3-7 published a determination that a specific appropriation has been  
3-8 made as provided by Section 2.01 of this Act. If the comptroller of  
3-9 public accounts determines that a specific appropriation has not  
3-10 been made as provided by Section 2.01 of this Act, or if the  
3-11 comptroller has not published a determination as provided by  
3-12 Section 2.01, Article 1 of this Act has no effect.

3-13 SECTION 3.02. Except as otherwise provided by this article,  
3-14 this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
3-15 legislative session.

3-16 \* \* \* \* \*