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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Committee on Rules (Truenow) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 1039 - 1075

and insert:

570.846 Florida Food Animal and Equine Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program.—

(1) PURPOSE.—To encourage specialized and qualified
veterinary professionals to practice in this state, to retain
the employment of such professionals in this state, and to
promote the care and treatment of food animals and equine
animals, there is established the Florida Food Animal and Equine



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Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. The purpose of the program is to authorize the department to make payments that offset loans incurred, for up to three new eligible candidates annually, for studies leading to a veterinary degree with a specialization in food animal or equine veterinary medicine.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Equine" means a species of animal belonging to the taxonomic family *equidae*, which includes horses and donkeys.

(b) "Food animal" means a species of animal raised for the human food supply. Food animals include cattle, swine, sheep, goat, poultry, aquaculture, and apiary species.

(c) "Food animal and equine veterinary medicine" means a veterinary medical practice that encompasses medical care, disease prevention, and consultation on the feeding, housing, and overall flock, herd, or equine health management.

(d) "Food animal or equine veterinarian" means a veterinarian working in food and equine animal veterinary medicine who focuses on the management and health of such animals and who spends a minimum of 20 hours per week on food animal species or equine animal species care and treatment.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for the program, a candidate must have graduated from an American Veterinary Medical Association-accredited college of veterinary medicine, have received a Florida veterinary medical license, have obtained a Category II Accreditation from the United States Department of Agriculture, and be a practicing food animal or equine animal veterinarian in this state.

(4) FUNDING.—Subject to legislative appropriation, the department may make loan principal repayments of up to \$25,000



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per eligible candidate per year. Loan principal repayments may
be made on behalf of each eligible candidate each year for up to
5 years. The department may select up to three new eligible
candidates each year. All repayments are contingent upon
continued proof of employment in this state as a practicing food
animal or equine veterinarian.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 124

and insert:

establishing the Florida Food Animal and Equine
Veterinary