



667770

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/10/2026	.	
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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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12 Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. The purpose of the
13 program is to authorize the department to make payments that
14 offset loans incurred, for up to three new eligible candidates
15 annually, for studies leading to a veterinary degree with a
16 specialization in food animal or equine veterinary medicine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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41 per eligible candidate per year. Loan principal repayments may
42 be made on behalf of each eligible candidate each year for up to
43 5 years. The department may select up to three new eligible
44 candidates each year. All repayments are contingent upon
45 continued proof of employment in this state as a practicing food
46 animal or equine veterinarian.

47
48 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

49 And the title is amended as follows:

50 Delete line 124

51 and insert:

52 establishing the Florida Food Animal and Equine
53 Veterinary