

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1183  
By: Haywood  
Natural Resources  
4/14/1999  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the Center for Rural Health Initiatives has a program which provides physicians with financial support for student loans for practicing medicine in rural areas. This bill would establish the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program to increase veterinarian practice in rural Texas, similar to the physicians program.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1183 establishes the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program to increase veterinarian practice in rural Texas.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program Advisory Committee in SECTION 1 (Section 89.002(c), Education Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Title 3D, Education Code, by adding Chapter 89, as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 89. RURAL VETERINARIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Sec. 89.001. DEFINITIONS. Defines “board,” “college,” “commission,” “committee,” “fund,” “program,” “rural county,” and “university.”

Sec. 89.002. RURAL VETERINARIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Sets forth the members composing the rural veterinarian incentive program advisory committee (committee). Requires the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University (college) to serve as the chair of the committee. Requires the committee to promulgate rules concerning the rural veterinarian incentive program (program).

Sec. 89.003. ELIGIBLE STUDENTS. Sets forth the eligibility requirements for students to participate in the program.

Sec. 89.004. RURAL SPONSORS. Authorizes a community or a political subdivision in a rural county that qualifies under the rules established by the committee under Section 89.002(c)(3) to provide financial support to a student described in Section 89.003. Requires the rural sponsor to enter into an agreement with the eligible student under Subsection (c). Requires an agreement of financial support to fund at least one full year of tuition and fees for an eligible student enrolled in the college. Authorizes financial support under this section to be satisfied in whole or part by a grant, scholarship, or private foundation, and requires financial support to be deposited in the rural veterinarian incentive program fund (fund) for distribution to the eligible student by the university.

Sec. 89.005. FINANCIAL SUPPORT. Requires a student participating in the program to enter into an agreement with Texas A&M University (university) to practice veterinary medicine in a rural county for one year for each year of financial support received by the student. Requires the financial support received by a student under this chapter to be used for the repayment of student loan indebtedness or to pay tuition and fees to the university. Requires financial support from the fund to be awarded in the form of grants.

Sec. 89.006. RURAL VETERINARIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM FUND. Provides that the fund is a fund in the state treasury. Provides that the fund consists of legislative appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, the market value of in-kind contributions, and other sources of revenue deposited to the credit of the fund by the university. Requires the fund to be administered by the university in accordance with the rules established by the committee.

Sec. 89.006. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM. Requires the university to administer the program according to the rules established by the committee.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.