

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2605

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Brief*

HB 2605, as amended, would expand and clarify the requirements for the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (Program) at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine (KSU CVM) and create an advisory committee to oversee the Program. The bill would also make technical amendments.

Advisory Committee

The bill would create an advisory committee that would help select students, determine the needs of the Program, and provide input to the KSU CVM. The advisory committee would consist of members including:

- Two representatives from the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA);
 - Including one member of the KVMA's Executive Committee, and
 - One member who has received the scholarship under the Program;
- The Animal Health Commissioner;
- Two members appointed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA); and
- Two representatives from the KSU CVM.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Changes to the Program

Current law provides each student enters the Program with a loan of \$20,000 per year. The bill would change the loan amount to an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per year. The bill would also allow veterinary students who are past their first year to enter into the Program.

For each person signing an agreement to enter the Program, the bill would change the requirements for engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine after graduation. The student could engage in either of the following:

- Full-time practice of veterinary medicine in any Kansas county with a population not exceeding 40,000 people (current law allows a Kansas county with a population not exceeding 35,000 people); or
- Full-time practice of veterinary medicine in a registered veterinary premise under a licensed veterinarian, if food animal patients make up at least 50 percent of such veterinarian's practice.

The bill would also make clarifying amendments regarding program agreements with veterinary students who have met the requirements of the bill.

Continuation of Agreement

The bill would allow a person engaged in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in accordance with a program agreement to continue practice in a county that no longer meets the county population requirement, provided the person is practicing in a registered veterinary premises where food animal patients make up at least 50 percent of the practice.

Definitions

The bill would add definitions for “animal,” “advisory committee,” and “food animal.”

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Agriculture on behalf of a representative of the KVMA.

House Committee on Agriculture

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the KSU CVM, a representative of the Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas Livestock Association, a representative of the KVMA, a current veterinary student at KSU CVM, and a veterinarian provided **proponent** testimony on the bill. The proponents provided information about the Program and the experiences of students in the Program both in-school and post-graduation. The proponents noted the Program has been successful in the past 15 years of its existence, serving over 80 recipients, with 94 percent of the recipients still practicing in an eligible community today.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of KDA and four veterinarians.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee adopted technical amendments to the bill.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In the Senate Committee hearing, representatives of the KSU CVM and the KVMA provided **proponent** testimony on the bill. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Assistant Animal Health Commissioner, KDA, and Kansas

Livestock Association, three veterinarians, and one KSU CVM student. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to clarify language regarding the program agreements with veterinary students who have met the requirements of the bill and remove food animal percentage from the continuation of practice conditions in the bill.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the KSU CVM indicates enactment of the bill would not warrant any noteworthy increases in operating costs, and any expansion of eligibility would be limited to the appropriated amount for the Program. Expenditures related to travel for the advisory committee would be handled with existing resources.

The KDA indicates that expenditures related to travel for the advisory committee would be handled with existing resources.

The Board of Veterinary Examiners indicates the bill would result in more veterinarians working in rural Kansas. The possible increase in veterinarians in Kansas could increase the number of licensed veterinarians in the state, increasing revenue to the Veterinary Examiners Fee Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

Veterinary training program; Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine; advisory committee; food animal; rural population; program agreements