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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1395, L.D. 1885, “An Act To Increase Maine's Veterinary Workforce”

Amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 1 in the 5th line (page 1, line 19 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "10" and inserting the following: '8'

Amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 1 in the 5th line (page 1, line 19 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "40" and inserting the following: '32. At least half, and no fewer than 2, of the annual loans awarded must be awarded to applicants who have demonstrated a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary medicine in the State unless the authority does not receive enough qualified applicants to meet this requirement, in which case the chief executive officer may award the remaining loans to other eligible applicants'

Amend the bill in section 5 in subsection 4 in the last line (page 1, line 28 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$50,000" and inserting the following: '\$35,000'

Amend the bill in section 8 in paragraph C in the first line (page 2, line 8 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "or an interest rate benefit" and inserting the following: '~~or an interest rate benefit~~'

Amend the bill in section 8 in paragraph C in the last line (page 2, line 11 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "care" the following: ', the location of the veterinarian's practice'

Amend the bill in section 11 in §12124 in the first indented paragraph in the 6th line (page 2, line 40 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "care." the following: 'In establishing criteria for determining areas of insufficient veterinary services for emergency and critical care and criteria for determining underserved geographic regions, the commissioner shall give priority consideration to regions within Aroostook County, Oxford County, Penobscot County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and Washington County.'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 11 the following:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 **'Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §12125** is enacted to read:

2 **§12125. Report by the Finance Authority of Maine**

3 **1. Report.** The authority shall include in its annual report under Title 10, section 974,  
4 subsection 1 the following information regarding the program:

- 5 A. The number of applications received each year;
- 6 B. The number of loans awarded each year;
- 7 C. The total amount disbursed through the program;
- 8 D. The total amount of loan forgiveness awarded through the program;
- 9 E. The total number of veterinary students assisted by loans through the program;
- 10 F. The total number of veterinarians awarded loan forgiveness through the program;
- 11 G. The number of current program participants working in a veterinary specialty  
12 related to livestock;
- 13 H. The number of current program participants working in a veterinary specialty  
14 related to emergency and critical care;
- 15 I. The number of current program participants working in an underserved geographic  
16 region; and
- 17 J. The location of each current program participant's veterinary practice.

18 **Sec. 13. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
19 allocations are made.

20 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

21 **Student Financial Assistance Programs 0653**

22 Initiative: Provides additional ongoing funding for the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan  
23 Program to increase the number of loans awarded annually from 2 to 8, up to an aggregate  
24 of 32 and to increase the maximum loan amount available under the program to each  
25 participant from \$25,000 to \$35,000 per year for a period of 4 years.

26	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
27	All Other	\$0	\$920,000
28			
29	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$920,000

30 '   
31 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
32 number to read consecutively.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This amendment does the following:

- 35 1. It requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to give  
36 priority consideration to regions within Aroostook County, Oxford County, Penobscot  
37 County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and Washington County when determining

1 regions of the State identified as having insufficient veterinary services related to  
2 emergency and critical care and when determining regions of the State that are underserved;

3 2. It reduces the maximum number of loans awarded annually from 10, as in the bill,  
4 to 8 and requires that at least half, but no fewer than 2, of those awards go to applicants  
5 who have demonstrated a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary medicine. Should there  
6 not be enough applicants who demonstrate a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary  
7 medicine, the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine may award the  
8 remaining loans to other eligible applicants;

9 3. It reduces the maximum annual loan amount from \$50,000 in the bill to \$35,000.  
10 Current law provides an annual loan amount of \$25,000;

11 4. It requires veterinarians requesting loan forgiveness under the Maine Veterinary  
12 Medicine Loan Program to report annually on the location of their practice;

13 5. It requires the Finance Authority of Maine to include details related to the program  
14 in its annual report to the Governor and the Legislature under the Maine Revised Statutes,  
15 Title 10, section 974, subsection 1; and

16 6. It appropriates an additional \$920,000 annually in order to increase the number and  
17 amount of loans awarded each year to the new statutory limits.

18 The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

19 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

20 **(See attached)**