

House Bill 1274

By: Representatives Huddleston of the 72<sup>nd</sup>, Ridley of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dickey of the 145<sup>th</sup>, Pirkle of the 169<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 65<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend part 6A of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to state veterinary education, so as to provide for limits on the student  
3 loan forgiveness program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Part 6A of Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
8 relating to state veterinary education, is amended by revising Code Section 20-3-518.3,  
9 relating to purchases of loans made for educational purposes to students who have completed  
10 a veterinary medical degree program, as follows:

11 "(a) The board may provide for the purchase of loans made to students or former students  
12 who are residents of Georgia for educational purposes who have completed a program of  
13 study in the field of doctor of veterinary medicine or its equivalent and are authorized to  
14 practice veterinary medicine in this state, with services in the form of the practice of  
15 veterinary medicine while residing in this state to be rendered as consideration for such  
16 loan purchases.

17 (b) Only persons whose veterinary medicine practices in this state include food animal  
18 specialties and have been practicing such specialties for ten years or less shall be eligible  
19 for loan purchases under this part."

20

## SECTION 2.

21 Said part is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-518.4, relating  
22 to loan purchases granted to applicants based upon services rendered and limitations, as  
23 follows:

24 "20-3-518.4.

25 (a)(1) Persons whose applications are approved and enter into a loan purchase agreement  
26 with the board, as provided by Code Section 20-3-518.3, shall receive a loan purchase in  
27 a total amount to be determined by the board, but not exceeding ~~\$80,000.00~~ \$75,000.00  
28 per person, ~~as provided by Code Section 20-3-518.3~~. The loan purchases shall be paid  
29 in such manner as the board shall determine.

30 (2) The loan purchases to be granted to each applicant shall be based upon the condition  
31 that the consideration for such loan purchases shall be services to be rendered by the  
32 applicant after entering into a loan purchase agreement with the board by practicing his  
33 or her profession in a board approved rural county in Georgia with a population of ~~35,000~~  
34 50,000 or less according to the United States decennial census of ~~2010~~ 2020 or any future  
35 such census.

36 (3) For time served after entering into a loan purchase agreement with the board in  
37 practicing his or her profession in such board approved location, the applicant shall  
38 receive a loan purchase at a rate equivalent to ~~\$20,000.00~~ \$25,000.00 per 12 months of  
39 service; provided, however, that the total purchase amount shall not exceed the maximum  
40 specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection."

41 **SECTION 3.**

42 Said part is further amended by revising Code Section 20-3-518.5, relating to contract and  
43 cancellation, as follows:

44 "20-3-518.5.

45 (a) Each applicant before being granted a loan purchase shall enter into a contract with a  
46 term of three consecutive years with the board agreeing to the terms and conditions upon  
47 which the loan purchase is granted, including such terms and provisions as will carry out  
48 the full purpose and intent of this part. No person shall be eligible to receive such award  
49 more than once during his or her lifetime. The form of such contract shall be prepared and  
50 approved by the Attorney General, and each contract shall be signed by the chairperson of  
51 the board and by the applicant.

52 (b) The board shall have the authority to cancel the loan purchase contract of any applicant  
53 at any time for any cause deemed sufficient by the board, provided that such authority shall  
54 not be arbitrarily or unreasonably exercised."

55 **SECTION 4.**

56 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.