

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference |
| Vote: | 7 - 0 - 1 |
| Yeas: | Boone, Esquivel, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Clem, Jenson |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | Cowan |
| Prepared By: | Liz Puskar, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 2/4, 2/21 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Provides for repayment of up to \$15,000 per year for four years of veterinary educational loans for veterinarians newly licensed in Oregon or licensed fewer than three years in another state who agree to practice veterinary medicine for four years in veterinary resource shortage area. Establishes repayment requirement, including penalty, for participants who leave the program before completing four year requirement. Establishes fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Shortage of veterinarians, particularly those who practice food supply medicine, in certain areas of Oregon
- Average education debt upon graduation for practicing veterinarians

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies fund into which revenues received under the bill would be paid.

BACKGROUND: According to the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, approximately 170 veterinarians statewide are currently engaged in some form of food supply medicine. The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that, in some Oregon counties, the ratio of food animal veterinarians to food animals is lower than 1:100,000, and that there are three Oregon counties with no food animal veterinarians and at least 5,000 food animals.