

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION,
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND
BUSINESS**

July 2022

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC
ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

LD 1885 An Act To Increase Maine’s Veterinary Workforce

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 725 makes the following changes to the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program.

1. It amends the definition of “insufficient veterinary services” to include an insufficient number of practitioners of emergency and critical care services.
2. It adds the option for veterinary students to qualify for the program by demonstrating an interest in working in underserved geographic regions of the State, as determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by rule.
3. It requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to give priority consideration to regions within Aroostook County, Oxford County, Penobscot County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County and Washington County when determining regions of the State identified as having insufficient veterinary services related to emergency and critical care and when determining regions of the State that are underserved.
4. It increases the maximum allowable number of annual loan awards from two to eight and requires that at least half, but no fewer than two, of those awards go to applicants who have demonstrated a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary medicine. Should there not be enough applicants who demonstrate a likelihood to practice livestock veterinary medicine, the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine may award the remaining loans to other eligible applicants.
5. It increases the maximum loan amount from \$25,000 to \$35,000 per year for a period of up to four years.
6. It requires veterinarians requesting loan forgiveness under the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program to report annually on the location of their practice.
7. It requires the Finance Authority of Maine to include details related to the program in its annual report to the Governor and the Legislature under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 974, subsection 1.
8. It appropriates an additional \$220,000 annually in order to increase the number of loans available to be awarded annually from two to three and to increase the maximum loan amount available under the program to each participant to the new statutory limits.