

Senate Bill No. 342—Senators Goicoechea, Titus, Seevers Gansert, Buck, Stone; Daly, Donate, Dondero Loop, Flores, Hammond, Hansen, Krasner and Pazina

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to veterinary medicine; revising provisions relating to certain requirements for participants in a program administered by the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education; requiring the Office to enter into certain contracts and implement certain programs relating to veterinary medicine; making appropriations; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law requires the three Commissioners from the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education to choose applicants who apply for a program administered by the Nevada Office which provides financial support to assist the applicants in attending colleges and universities located within the states and territories that are signatories to the Western Regional Education Compact. (NRS 397.020, 397.060) Existing law further requires a participant who receives a stipend from such a program to complete a practice obligation in a health professional shortage area or an area with a medically underserved population in this State. (NRS 397.0645) **Section 1** of this bill provides that this requirement does not apply to a participant who receives a stipend to participate in a program to earn a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine.

**Section 2** of this bill makes an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office to enter into a contract with Utah State University for a program to provide stipends for the out-of-state tuition of 70 residents of Nevada to earn a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Utah State University.

**Section 3** of this bill makes an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office for the salary, benefits and operating costs of a Program Officer I position to assist the Nevada Office in carrying out the program to provide stipends.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** NRS 397.0645 is hereby amended to read as follows:

397.0645 1. A participant must repay the stipend received by the participant unless the participant:

(a) Graduates with a degree, certificate or similar credential in the area for which the participant received the stipend.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 397.0685, practices, in Nevada, the profession for which the degree, certificate or similar



credential was awarded for 1 year for each year the participant receives a stipend.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 397.069:

(1) Commences the participant's practice obligation within 1 year after the completion or termination of the education, internship or residency for which the participant received the stipend.

(2) Completes the participant's practice obligation within 5 years after the completion or termination of the education, internship or residency for which the participant received the stipend.

(d) Reports the participant's practice status annually to the Nevada Office on forms provided by the Nevada Office.

(e) Maintains the participant's permanent residence in the State of Nevada throughout the period of the participant's practice obligation. For purposes of this paragraph:

(1) Merely owning a residence in this State does not satisfy the requirement that a participant must maintain a permanent residence in this State.

(2) A participant who leaves the State for a limited period of time without forming the intent of changing the participant's permanent residence is not considered to have moved the participant's residence.

(f) If the participant received the stipend to participate in a program administered by the Nevada Office ~~to~~ *other than a program for veterinary medicine*, completes the practice required by paragraph (b) of subsection 1 in a health professional shortage area or an area with a medically underserved population in this State.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if a participant does not meet the requirements prescribed in subsection 1, the three Nevada State Commissioners, acting jointly:

(a) Shall convert the stipend into a loan to be repaid in accordance with NRS 397.064 from the first day of the term for which the participant received the stipend.

(b) Shall assess a default charge against the participant if the participant received the stipend to participate in a program administered by the Nevada Office.

(c) May assess a default charge against the participant if the participant received the stipend to participate in a program administered by the office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education established pursuant to Article 7 of the Compact.

3. If the period for the required practice is only partially completed, the three Nevada State Commissioners, acting jointly,



may decrease the amount owed under the loan for the time the participant practiced his or her profession as required.

4. As used in this section:

(a) “Area with a medically underserved population” means an area:

(1) Designated as such by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 254c; and

(2) Which meets any additional requirements prescribed by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) “Health professional shortage area” means a geographic area:

(1) Designated as such by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 254e; and

(2) Which meets any additional requirements prescribed by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.

**Sec. 2.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education the sum of \$8,000,000 for entering into a contract with Utah State University to carry out the program required pursuant to subsection 2.

2. The Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education shall enter into a contract with Utah State University to implement a program administered by the Nevada Office to provide stipends for the costs of the out-of-state portion of tuition for 70 residents of the State of Nevada to earn a degree of doctor of veterinary medicine from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Utah State University during the period commencing on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2034. The contract must require the Nevada Office, pursuant to NRS 397.060, and in consultation with at least 2 licensed veterinarians, as defined in NRS 638.007, to select from among Nevada residents who apply for the program described in this subsection and who have at least 1 year of residence in this State immediately before applying for the program, those who are most qualified to participate in the program.

3. Money appropriated by subsection 1 may only be allocated by the Interim Finance Committee upon submittal by the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education of a signed contract between the Nevada Office and Utah State University to carry out the program required pursuant to subsection 2.

4. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,



2025, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 19, 2025, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 19, 2025.

**Sec. 3.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Interim Finance Committee for allocation to the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for the salary, benefits and operating costs of a Program Officer I position to assist the Nevada Office in carrying out the program required pursuant to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act the following sums:

For the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 .....	\$79,719
For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 .....	\$76,132

2. Money appropriated by subsection 1 may only be allocated by the Interim Finance Committee upon submittal by the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education of a signed contract between the Nevada Office and Utah State University to carry out the program required pursuant to subsection 2 of section 2 of this act.

3. Any balance of the sums appropriated by subsection 1 remaining at the end of the respective fiscal years must not be committed for expenditure after June 30 of the respective fiscal years by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 20, 2024, and September 19, 2025, respectively.

**Sec. 4.** 1. This section and sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 3 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

