SYNOPSIS
Establishes the number of students to be supported under the veterinary medicine education program and a service requirement for students who participate in the program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT concerning the veterinary medicine education program and amending N.J.S.18A:71B-47 et seq.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. N.J.S.18A:71B-47 is amended to read as follows:

18A:71B-47. a. The authority is hereby authorized to contract with any and all accredited schools of veterinary medicine in the United States for the acceptance of students who are residents of New Jersey for at least 12 months and desire to study veterinary medicine, and to expend annually within the limits of available appropriations such sums as are necessary to accomplish the intent of this act.

b. For the 2017-2018 academic year the authority shall contract for the acceptance of 30 students, and shall increase the number of contractual agreements for veterinary medical students by an additional 30 students in each of the next three subsequent academic years, until the total number of contractual agreements for veterinary medical students supported under the program equals 120 in the 2020-2021 academic year and in each academic year thereafter.

c. A student attending a school of veterinary medicine in accordance with the provisions of subsection a. of this section, shall be required upon graduation to practice veterinary medicine in New Jersey for a period of 18 months for each year of contract funding provided for that student. The required service shall begin within one year of completion of the student’s veterinary medical education, including American Veterinary Medical Association-approved internships or residencies. If after documented efforts to secure a position in veterinary medicine in New Jersey the service requirement is not met in whole or in part, the student shall refund to the authority the portion of the contract funding not redeemed through service in this State.

(cf: N.J.S.18A:71B-47)

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be applicable to the 2017-2018 academic year.

STATEMENT

Under the veterinary medicine education program, originally established through statute in 1971, the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) enters into contractual agreements

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
with out-of-state schools of veterinary medicine for the acceptance
of New Jersey residents. These schools receive a capitation subsidy
toward the cost of education in return for reserved spaces for New
Jersey students. Between the FY 2007 and FY 2011 fiscal years,
funding for the program was reduced and then eliminated. This
lack of State support has restricted the ability of New Jersey
students to study veterinary medicine, which is significant in light
of the fact that such programs are not available within the State.

This bill directs HESAA to contract with out-of-state schools of
veterinary medicine for the acceptance of 30 New Jersey students
for the 2017-2018 academic year and to increase the number of
contractual agreements for an additional 30 students in each of the
next three subsequent academic years, until the total number of
contractual agreements supports the education of 120 students in the
2020-2021 academic year.

The bill also establishes a service requirement for students whose
education is supported through these contractual agreements. Upon
completion of a student’s veterinary medical education, the student
will be required to work in a veterinary medicine position in New
Jersey for a period of 18 months for each year of contract funding
provided for the student. If this service requirement is not met in
whole or in part, then the student is obligated to refund to HESAA
the portion of the funding that has not been redeemed through
service in the State.