

**§ 3129a. Federal Advisory Committee Act exemption for competitive research, extension, and education programs**

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII of this Act [7 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.] shall not apply to any committee, board, commission, panel, or task force, or similar entity, created solely for the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals requesting funding under any competitive research, extension, or education program carried out by the Secretary. (Pub. L. 95-113, title XIV, §1413B, as added Pub. L. 104-127, title VIII, §804, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1160.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Title XVIII of this Act, referred to in text, is title XVIII of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, Pub. L. 95-113, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1041, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 55A (§2281 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1977 Amendment note set out under section 1281 of this title and Tables.

**§ 3130. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-127, title VIII, § 858, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1173**

Section, Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1456, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3614, related to composting research and extension program.

SUBCHAPTER III—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**§ 3151. Grants to enhance research capacity in schools of veterinary medicine**

**(a) Competitive grant program**

The Secretary shall conduct a program of competitive grants to States for the purpose of meeting the costs of renovation, improving compliance with Federal regulations, employing faculty, acquiring equipment, and taking other action related to the improvement of schools of veterinary medicine to ensure agricultural competitiveness on a worldwide basis.

**(b) Preference**

Except with respect to the States of Alaska and Hawaii, the Secretary shall give preference in awarding grants to States which file, with their application for funds under this section, assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that—

(1) the State has established a veterinary medical training program with one or more States without colleges of veterinary medicine which consists of appropriate cooperative agreements providing for a sharing of curriculum and costs by the individual States;

(2) the clinical training of the school to be improved shall emphasize care and preventive medical programs for food animals and companion animals (including horses) which support industries of major economic importance; and

(3) the Secretary may set aside a portion of funds appropriated for the award of grants under this section and make such amounts

available only for grants to eligible colleges and universities that the Secretary determines have unique capabilities for achieving the objective of full participation of minority groups in research in the Nation's schools of veterinary medicine.

Notwithstanding clause (1) of this subsection, no State which the Secretary determines has made a reasonable effort to establish appropriate cooperative agreements shall be denied a grant or otherwise prejudiced because of its failure to establish such cooperative agreements.

**(c) Apportionment and distribution of funds**

Funds appropriated to carry out this section for any fiscal year shall be apportioned and distributed as follows:

(1) Five per centum shall be retained by the Department of Agriculture for administration, program assistance to eligible States, and program coordination.

(2) The remainder shall be apportioned and distributed by the Secretary to those States which have applied for funds under this section on such basis as the Secretary may deem appropriate.

(Pub. L. 95-113, title XIV, §1415, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 993; Pub. L. 97-98, title XIV, §1417, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1305; Pub. L. 99-198, title XIV, §1410, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1547; Pub. L. 101-624, title XVI, §1607(a), (b), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3716; Pub. L. 113-79, title VII, §7128(b)(1)(A), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 878.)

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 113-79 struck out “This grant program shall be based on a matching formula of 50 per centum Federal and 50 per centum State funding.” at end.

1990—Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(b)(1), amended section catchline generally.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(b)(1), inserted heading.

Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(a)(1), amended first sentence generally. Prior to amendment, first sentence read as follows: “The Secretary shall conduct a program of grants to States for the purpose of meeting the costs of construction, employing faculty, acquiring equipment, and taking other action relating to the initial establishment and initial operation of schools of veterinary medicine, or the expansion of existing schools of veterinary medicine, as determined [sic] by the Secretary by regulations.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(b)(2), inserted heading.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(a)(2), struck out “, or has made a reasonable effort to establish,” after “established”, and “and” after “States;”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(a)(3), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “the clinical training of the school to be established or expanded shall emphasize care and preventive medical programs for food-producing animals.”

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(a)(3), added par. (3).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-624, §1607(b)(3), inserted heading.

1985—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 99-198 substituted “Five” for “Four”.

1981—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 97-98 struck out proviso that not less than 50 per centum of such funds shall be made available to States which have accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4301 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1977, see section 1901 of Pub. L. 95-113, set out as an Effective Date of 1977 Amendment note under section 1307 of this title.

**§ 3151a. Veterinary medicine loan repayment****(a) Program****(1) Service in shortage situations**

The Secretary shall carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a period of time as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. For each year of such service under an agreement under this paragraph, the Secretary shall pay an amount, as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, of the principal and interest of qualifying educational loans of the veterinarians.

**(2) Service to Federal Government in emergency situations****(A) In general**

The Secretary may enter into agreements of 1 year duration with veterinarians who have agreements pursuant to paragraph (1) for such veterinarians to provide services to the Federal Government in emergency situations, as determined by the Secretary, under terms and conditions specified in the agreement. Pursuant to an agreement under this paragraph, the Secretary shall pay an amount, in addition to the amount paid pursuant to the agreement in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, of the principal and interest of qualifying educational loans of the veterinarians.

**(B) Requirements**

Agreements entered into under this paragraph shall include the following:

(i) A veterinarian shall not be required to serve more than 60 working days per year of the agreement.

(ii) A veterinarian who provides service pursuant to the agreement shall receive a salary commensurate with the duties and shall be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as appropriate for the duration of the service.

**(b) Determination of veterinarian shortage situations**

In determining “veterinarian shortage situations”, the Secretary may consider—

(1) geographical areas that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians; and

(2) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety.

**(c) Administration****(1) Authority**

The Secretary may carry out this program directly or enter into agreements with an-

other Federal agency or other service provider to assist in the administration of this program.

**(2) Breach remedies****(A) In general**

Agreements with program participants shall provide remedies for any breach of an agreement by a participant, including repayment or partial repayment of financial assistance received, with interest.

**(B) Amounts recovered**

Funds recovered under this subsection shall be credited to the account available to carry out this section and shall remain available until expended.

**(3) Waiver**

The Secretary may grant a waiver of the repayment obligation for breach of contract in the event of extreme hardship or extreme need, as determined by the Secretary.

**(4) Amount**

The Secretary shall develop regulations to determine the amount of loan repayment for a year of service by a veterinarian. In making the determination, the Secretary shall consider the extent to which such determination—

(A) affects the ability of the Secretary to maximize the number of agreements that can be provided under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program from the amounts appropriated for such agreements; and

(B) provides an incentive to serve in veterinary service shortage areas with the greatest need.

**(5) Qualifying educational loans**

Loan repayments provided under this section may consist of payments on behalf of participating individuals of the principal and interest on government and commercial loans received by the individual for attendance of the individual at an accredited college of veterinary medicine resulting in a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or the equivalent, which loans were made for—

(A) tuition expenses;

(B) all other reasonable educational expenses, including fees, books, and laboratory expenses, incurred by the individual; or

(C) reasonable living expenses as determined by the Secretary.

**(6) Repayment schedule**

The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the holder of any loan for which payments are made under this section to establish a schedule for the making of such payments.

**(7) Tax liability**

In addition to educational loan repayments, the Secretary shall make such additional payments to participants as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for the purpose of providing reimbursements to participants for individual tax liability resulting from participation in this program.

**(8) Priority**

In administering the program, the Secretary shall give priority to agreements with veteri-