

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 3.2-5901.2, relating to State*
3 *Veterinarian; large animal veterinary grant program; report.*

4 [H 2303]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 3.2-5901.2 as follows:**8 **§ 3.2-5901.2. State Veterinarian; large animal veterinary grant program.**9 *A. As used in this section:*10 *"Large animal veterinarian" means a person who is actively engaged in and is licensed to practice*
11 *veterinary medicine pursuant to Chapter 38 (§ 54.1-3800 et seq.) of Title 54.1 and whose specialties include*
12 *livestock, poultry, or equine, as that term is defined in § 3.2-6200.*13 *"Program" means the large animal veterinary grant program established by the State Veterinarian*
14 *pursuant to subsection B.*15 *B. The State Veterinarian shall establish a large animal veterinary grant program to provide grants to*
16 *increase or stabilize the number of large animal veterinarians practicing in areas of the Commonwealth that*
17 *have been identified by the State Veterinarian as having a shortage of such veterinarians. The State*
18 *Veterinarian shall annually select from a pool of applicants no more than four large animal veterinarians to*
19 *participate in the program.*20 *C. The State Veterinarian, in consultation with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and relevant*
21 *stakeholders, including the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the Virginia Academy of Food Animal*
22 *Practitioners, and the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, shall develop criteria for applicants to*
23 *participate in the program, which shall include:*24 *1. The geographic area of the Commonwealth that an applicant serves or would serve and the need for*
25 *large animal veterinary services in such area;*26 *2. The number of localities that an applicant serves or would serve;*27 *3. The number of different large animal veterinarian specialties in which an applicant practices; and*28 *4. The percentage of time an applicant devotes to large animal veterinary services.*29 **2. That the State Veterinarian shall establish the large animal veterinary grant program pursuant to §**
30 **3.2-5901.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, no later than July 1, 2026.**31 **3. That the State Veterinarian shall submit a report evaluating the extent to which the large animal**
32 **veterinary grant program created pursuant to § 3.2-5901.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this**
33 **act, has helped to address the shortage of large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth. Such**
34 **report shall be submitted to the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Chairmen of the Senate**
35 **Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on**
36 **Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources no later than July 1, 2030.**