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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Click all that apply:
Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date 2025-01-16
Bill No: HB90

Sponsor: Zamora, Martin R **Agency Name and Code** NMHED
Short VETERINARY MEDICAL **Number:** _____
Title: LOAN REPAYMENT **Person Writing** Romero, Heather
Phone: 5054768410 **Email** heather.romero@hed.n

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
\$5,000.0	0.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 90 (HB90) creates the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Act. The legislation directs the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) to establish a loan repayment program for licensed veterinarians in underserved areas of the State of New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB90 appropriates five million dollars (\$5,000,000) from the General Fund to the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Fund under NMHED in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) through FY31 to carry out the purposes of the fund. NMHED requests an additional full-time employee (FTE) to support the program's administrative responsibilities as provided within this legislation. The expansion in Financial Aid loan repayment programs requires in-depth tracking to ensure the effectiveness of a program. Participant and financial reporting will require one (1) FTE to support this legislation, a Financial Coordinator III at pay band 75 who can oversee and independently perform program, policy, and budget analysis utilizing multiple funding sources and can perform highly responsible technical, professional, and administrative work involving formulation and direction over overall program and accounting functions. Annual salary for this FTE spans from a minimum of sixty-one thousand five hundred thirty-one dollars (\$61,531) to a maximum of ninety-eight thousand four hundred forty-nine dollars (\$98,449) annually.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico is experiencing a shortage of veterinarians in both rural and urban areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture identifies fifteen (15) New Mexico counties and the Navajo Nation as Rural Area Food Animal Medicine Shortage Areas (<https://www.nifa.usda.gov>). Like other health care fields of study, veterinarians can incur substantial levels of student debt in the pursuit of their degree. The national average debt for veterinarians upon completion of their studies averages one hundred eighty-three thousand eight hundred two dollars (\$183,802). HB90 creates the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Act to provide veterinarians working in underserved areas student loan repayment assistance as an aid to recruit and retain veterinary professionals in the underserved areas of the State. Recipients shall serve one year (12 months) to receive credit for one year of service. The annual award shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the first two years of service and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each of the second two years, for a total not to exceed eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000).

HB90 establishes a program that is structurally similar to the State's existing Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP) administered by NMHED (21-22D NMSA 1978). Candidate selection for HPLRP is conducted by a Health Professional Advisory Committee established in rule and composed of experts in health policy. NMHED would seek a panel with similar expertise to aid in candidate selection for veterinary loan repayment. This may include participants from the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine, New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association, and other stakeholders.

New Mexico currently offers out-of-state deferential tuition to students who have been accepted into a Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (WICHE) Loan-For-Service program. Currently NMHED funds ten (10) slots for veterinary medicine. As a condition of the loan, students must declare their intent to return to New Mexico to provide service as a professional of veterinary medicine. These veterinarians are not required to practice in underserved areas of the state.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB90 does not specify performance measures but requires annual reporting to the Legislature on program outcomes.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB90 directs NMHED to promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Act. The administrative code would clarify details such as the structure of the selection communities to review applicants, underserved areas, and area of veterinary practice.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

No Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Act will be created. New Mexico may continue to experience a shortage of qualified veterinary professionals, particularly in rural areas of the state.

AMENDMENTS

N/A