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| <b>LFC Requester:</b> | <b>Conner Jorgensen</b> |
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## AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

### SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

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

**Date Prepared:** 01/22/2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB 8 Original  Correction   
 Amendment  Substitute

|                         |  |   |  |
|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Sponsor:</b>         | Pat Woods and Tara L. Lujan<br>and Pat Boone | <b>Agency Name<br/>and Code<br/>Number:</b> | New Mexico Livestock Board<br>50800    |
| <b>Short<br/>Title:</b> | Veterinary Medical Loan<br>Repayment Program | <b>Person Writing<br/>Phone:</b>            | <u>Belinda Garland</u><br>505-841-6161 |
|                         |  | <b>Email</b>                                | <u>belinda.garland@nmlb.nm.gov</u>     |

### SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

#### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation |      | Recurring<br>or Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|---------------|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| FY25          | FY26 |                              |                  |
|               | N/A  |                              |                  |
|               |      |                              |                  |

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

#### REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

| Estimated Revenue |      |      | Recurring<br>or<br>Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| FY25              | FY26 | FY27 |                                 |                  |
|                   | N/A  | N/A  |                                 |                  |
|                   |      |      |                                 |                  |

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

#### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

|              | FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | 3 Year<br>Total Cost | Recurring or<br>Nonrecurring | Fund<br>Affected |
|--------------|------|------|------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total</b> |      | 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**

Synopsis: SB 8 enacts The Veterinary Loan Repayment Act. The intent of the Act is to address the veterinary shortage that exists in rural New Mexico. The Act will be overseen by the Higher Education Department. An appropriation will be included along with penalties for noncompliance.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

No direct fiscal implications for the agency.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

There are several areas of New Mexico that are experiencing a severe shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technicians. SB 8 addresses this issue by creating an incentive to attract veterinarians and veterinary technicians to practice within designated veterinary shortage areas of New Mexico. The incentive is in the form of a loan repayment program which will be managed by the Higher Education Department (Department). The Department may grant awards to repay loans obtained for veterinary educational expenses for veterinarians and veterinary technicians according to terms and conditions as may be imposed by rules of the Department. The awards shall not exceed the total veterinary education indebtedness of any participant. Applicants for the program shall be residents of New Mexico and bona fide citizens of the United States. Applicants shall declare their intent to practice within designated veterinary shortage areas of the state. The Department shall designate shortage areas and will select qualified applicants. The Department will assist selected veterinarians and veterinary technicians in locating positions in designated veterinary shortage areas. The Department may delegate to other agencies or contract for the performance of services required by the provisions of the Act.

The award shall be evidenced by a contract between the recipient and the Department acting on behalf of the state. The contract will provide a stated sum to the veterinarian's or veterinary technician's debtors and shall state the obligations under the program, including a minimum two-year period of service, quarterly reporting requirements and other policies established by the department. The recipient shall serve a complete year in order to receive credit for that year. The minimum credit for a year shall be established by the Department. If the recipient does not comply with the terms of the contract, the Department shall assess a penalty of up to three times the amount of the award disbursed plus eighteen percent interest, unless the Department finds acceptable extenuating circumstances.

The following education debts are not eligible for repayment pursuant to the Act: amounts incurred as a result of participation in state loan-for service programs or other state programs whose purpose states that service be provided in exchange for financial assistance, scholarships that have a service component or obligation, personal loans from friends or relatives, and loans that exceed individual standard school expense levels.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None for the New Mexico Livestock Board.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None for the New Mexico Livestock Board.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None for the New Mexico Livestock Board.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None for the New Mexico Livestock Board.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None for the New Mexico Livestock Board.

**ALTERNATIVES**

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

An incentive to attract veterinarians to underserved areas of New Mexico will not be developed.

**AMENDMENTS**