

2011 SENATE AGRICULTURE

SB 2341

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Agriculture Committee
Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SB 2341
February 4, 2011
14002

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Greta Nelson

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the veterinarian loan repayment program; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

Minutes:

Attachments: #1, #2,

Senator Flakoll; Meeting called to order this 4th day of February, 2011 at 8:00am
SB 2341 Clerk take roll.

Clerk: Roll call

Senator Erbele: Senator from District 28 here to introduce SB 2341 which is a veterinarian loan program. This bill seeks to expand who we pay and also use of the funds. Some left program without using all the funds, need to use those monies for other students. We have a shortage of food animal vets and large animal practice. I have served on the board....we don't have a veterinary school in ND. We meet every Junemembers of the board are very interested in our loan repayment program. The problem is trying to keep vets to come to the rural areas in the large animal practice. 80% female and 20% male....student population....so the tendency is smaller animals.

Senator Flakoll And the money is in which bill?

Senator Erbele: Don't remember

Beth Carlson: Deputy State Veterinarian, State Board of Animal Health (Attachment #1)

Senator Klein: Give me the logistics as to how this works....walk us through what we are fixing and how does the current program work?

Beth Carlson: Currently, the students submit application to Health Dept and Board of Animal Health volunteers (3 or 4) to score aps....we make recommendation to the health council. They approve the selection. We have people after 6 months are eligible for the first payment up to \$15,000 first year, same second year, \$25-30,000 to the fourth. Highest on student loan was \$197,000. Up to \$80,000 over 4 years can be repaid directly to the loan holder.

Senator Klein; This is an opportunity for those who have gotten their degree and come back here to work.....we choose them and pay their loan down?

Beth Carlson; Correct

Senator Murphy: What is their salary?

Beth Carlson: \$45-65,000 range

Senator Larsen; this program allows 3 candidates....what is the application stack per year that you look at.....are there quite a few?

Beth Carlson: There were 8 this year complete....most has been 13.

Senator Luick; Does the state need more vets in ND?

Beth Carlson: There are areas in the state need....areas that would like a veterinarian, but can't put them when there is not enough business. Urban areas are easier to find vets, but smaller rural areas are difficult to find.

Senator Heckaman; Do the loan repayments go directly to the veterinarian or to their financial institution where the loan is due?

Beth Carlson: Yes, they go directly to loan holder.

Senator Luick: Loan payback itself I assume is a taxable

Beth Carlson: Correct.....there is a national veterinary loan repayment program that began last year. It operates much differently and can express the need in ND with application through our officeNational selection committee designates areas of need based on that. People can apply for that.....they are in the process of making it tax free. But ours is taxable.

Nancy Kopp: ND Veterinarian Medical Association. Support the bill and echo Beth Carlson testimony. Major revision page 3 line 4 which we do support...language was difficult out of state and in state and state funded. Another concern: Allowing the advisory council to select more than 3 applicants based the state funding. Maybe select 4. Section 6 line 28-29 page 4; 1-5 on page 5 we would like that section amended strike the whole section...intern can strike. (Refer to Attachment #1) Question where the funding for this program comes fromit is contained in House Bill 1004.....I did testify in support of that bill.

Senator Larsen: Of these applicants going to the small towns....are they staying there or are they cycling out to get the payment?

Nancy Kopp: Most are staying. Some are moving around and that is why we are asking for some flexibility if the applicant leaves early. Those funds will be used for another applicant.

Senator Flakoll If the person was there for a couple years, and chooses to move to another small town in ND....does it transfer with them?

Nancy Kopp: Answer by another

Senator Luick: If they move out of state, what happens? Are they responsible to pay the money back or just year by year requirements?

Nancy Kopp: Department will answer

Sheyna Strommen: North Dakota Stockman's Association (Attachment #2)

Sandy Clark: North Dakota Farm Bureau. We are supporting the SB 2341

Gary Garland: ND Dept of Health: With the assistance of Dr Carlson and other within the department....I administer the veterinary loan repayment program. The Department of Health support all the amendments including the recommendation the last amendment/addition page 5 are stricken. We do not need the administrative money within the dept of health. My salary is in the base budget of the health dept. I use that money to administer this program.

Senator Luick; requirements of the individual receiving the money and if they were to default to stay in a community or exit out of the state.

Gary Garland: If they left the state they would not be eligible to receive any additional dollars. Penalty is the amount of time they served the dollar would be prorated on amount of time they served....paying the money back is not in this law.

Senator Flakoll; Veterinarian goes to another area....transferable if move to a different ND location?

Gary Garland: Allowing the individual going to a place that match where they were in needwe could be flexible.

Beth Carlson: The board wish would be ...the consensus was they would have to re-apply for the community they wish to transfer to....

Senator Larsen: It is news worthy that you actually want to give money back....this the first entity that isn't wanting money. Where do the donations come from?

Gary Garland: Donations have come from anywhere

Senator Flakoll Question on section 6...you believe the administrative costs, if we remove it, it goes to zero doesn't take off the cap?

Gary Garland: Talking about the Administrative cost money?

Senator Flakoll: Correct

Senator Flakoll; If we remove that language, it prohibits any funds being used for administrative cost rather than.....right now there is a cap on the funds that could be used, but if we remove that section it doesn't take the cap off...does it? Then it would prohibit those funds from being used for administrative costs?

Gary Garland: If you illuminate this section, the administrative costs are already covered through the health dept budget. If language stayed in law, the health and agriculture would have the ability to access additional money. That is not necessary

Senator Flakoll; Any other in support of the bill? Oppositions for SB 2341

Senator Flakoll; Close the hearing on SB 2341.

Second meeting for SB 2341

Senator Flakoll: Everyone have the proposed amendment? It would remove the Section 6

Senator Miller; I move the amendments to SB 2341

Senator Murphy; second

Senator Flakoll; Discussion? Clerk take roll of the adoption of the proposed amendment to remove section 6 to SB 2341

Clerk: Take roll 7-0-0

Senator Flakoll; Motion carries

Senator Murphy; Move a Do Pass as amended

Senator Luick: second

Senator Flakoll; Moved and second. Any discussion?

Senator Flakoll: Moved and second for Do Pass.....Clerk take roll

Clerk: Roll 7-0-0

Senator Flakoll; Do Pass motion carried

Senator Flakoll; Senator Luick will carry bill

Senator Flakoll: Adjourned

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2341

Page 4, line 28, remove:

“**SECTION 6.** A new section to chapter 43-29.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Administrative costs - Allowable percentage.

The state department of health may expend no more than seven percent of the appropriated moneys and the state veterinarian may expend no more than three percent of the appropriated moneys for administration of the veterinarian loan repayment program, in accordance with this chapter.”

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/4/11
Roll Call Vote #: 7-0-0

①

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2341-

Senate Senate Agriculture Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Amendment

Motion Made By Senator Miller Seconded By Senator Murphy

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Senator Tim Flakoll	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Oley Larsen	✓				
Senator Jerry Klein	✓				
Senator Larry Luick	✓				
Senator Joe Miller	✓				
Senator Bill Murphy	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2/4/11
 Roll Call Vote #: 7-0-0 (2)

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2341

Senate Senate Agriculture Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Senator Murphy Seconded By Senator Luick

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Senator Tim Flakoll	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Senator Oley Larsen	✓				
Senator Jerry Klein	✓				
Senator Larry Luick	✓				
Senator Joe Miller	✓				
Senator Bill Murphy	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Luick

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2341: Agriculture Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2341 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, remove "to create and enact a new section to chapter 43-29.1 of the North Dakota"

Page 1, line 2, remove "Century Code, relating to administrative costs of the veterinarian loan repayment program;"

Page 4, remove lines 28 and 29

Page 5, remove lines 1 through 5

Renumber accordingly

2011 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

SB 2341

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Agriculture Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2341
March 3, 2011
Job #14895

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the veterinarian loan repayment program; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

Minutes:

Beth Carlson, Deputy State Veterinarian:

We, along with the Health Dept. and Nancy Kopp of the Veterinary Medical Association, asked this bill to be introduced because the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program had a few growing pains after the first few years. As it was amended in the Senate is how we asked the bill to be changed. It will make a few changes to the existing law to make it easier.

(See attached #1)

The Health Council meets later this morning and I am recommending that three new veterinarians be accepted into the program as well.

Representative Schmidt: On lines 10 & 11, "Each applicant must be a veterinarian and must agree to provide food animal veterinary medicine services." Does that "food animal veterinary medicine" include equine?

Beth Carlson: We do not consider horses as food animals. They are treated as companion animals.

Representative Schmidt: We had a House bill before us regarding equine slaughter facilities. I was wondering if there is a relationship between that and this definition.

Beth Carlson: "Food animal veterinarians" is the new term vs. "large animal veterinarians." There are a lot of veterinarians who are equine exclusive. The type of practice they have is not livestock production but rather race horses and companion animals. The intent was to put veterinarians in rural communities to help livestock producers. While many of those producers may have horses, the primary work load is food animal related which usually is cattle.

Chairman Johnson: The earlier bill allowing equine meat to be processed in a state inspected facility when not for resale, will that have an effect on what we are doing here?

Beth Carlson: I don't believe so. If someone applied for this program with the intent of providing services to a large number of horses intended for food production, we would consider them a food animal veterinarian.

Representative Rust: The veterinarian loan repayment program, is that exclusively for student loan repayment or is there more to that program?

Beth Carlson: This bill targets loan repayment for student loans.

Representative Belter: We had two veterinarians that dropped out of the loan program-- not veterinarian school?

Beth Carlson: This program is for veterinarians who have completed their education. Once they have completed their education, they can apply for this program for a specific community in the state. All the applicants are either in their senior year of veterinary school or they are already in practice and coming to a community that is in need of a veterinarian.

Representative Belter: So the two that dropped out wanted to practice elsewhere?

Beth Carlson: Correct. They both left the state to practice.

Representative Boe: Where does the funding come from?

Beth Carlson: I believe it comes from the Community Health Trust Fund and part is general fund.

Senator Taylor, Co-Sponsor: The goal is to get more veterinarian service to food animal people in rural areas of North Dakota. It puts a hamper on being profitable as an animal producer without a veterinarian.

Representative Schatz: This "food animal terminology" vs. "large animal", when did that change?

Senator Taylor: I can't say for sure.

Nancy Kopp, ND Veterinary Medical Assn: (See attached #2)

The amendments made on the Senate side were to the last section of the original bill which was the administrative costs and allowable percentages. The State Dept. of Health was allowed seven percent as well as the Board of Animal Health three percent to administer the program. In subsequent years and bienniums the Health Dept. as well as the Board of Animal Health has indicated that they do not need those funds. So that amendment was to strike that last Section 6.

Chairman Johnson: The \$135,000 general funds, there isn't a fiscal note with the bill.

Nancy Kopp: The appropriation is in the Health Department budget in HB 1004. That was approved on the floor.

Sheyna Strommen, ND Stockmen's Assn.: (See attached #3 for Julie Ellingson)

Sandy Clark, ND Farm Bureau: We support SB 2341.

Gary Garland, ND Dept of Health: I administer this program with the help of the Dept. of Agriculture.

Representative Rust: Can you give a summary of how this works?

Gary Garland: The applicants have a choice as they apply for the program. At a minimum, they can request a two-year contract. The payment to the veterinarians which is up to \$80,000 if they will serve a four-year period is graduated as follows:

1st year they receive \$15,000.

2nd year they receive another \$15,000.

3rd year they receive \$25,000.

4th year they receive \$25,000.

So there is an incentive for them to commit long term and stay in their area permanently.

The reason for the amendments, two left early which left additional money in the pot. We had a third applicant who served two years. So we paid the \$15,000 they first year, the \$15,000 the second year but that left \$50,000. We asked the Attorney General if we could redistribute the money to other applicants. The answer was "no." The law doesn't provide for you to do that. Rather than turn back money we would reward applicants high on the scoring.

Representative Rust: The payments go directly to the veterinarian?

Gary Garland: No, they go to the lending institution.

Chairman Johnson: Is there a penalty if they leave a year and a half into a two-year program?

Gary Garland: This is a very generous law in my opinion because if an applicant leaves early, they are paid on a prorated basis. If they served half a year, they would get \$7,500 instead of the first-year of \$15,000—the lending institution would get \$7,500.

Chairman Johnson: Closed the hearing.

Representative Boe: Moved Do Pass.

Vice Chairman Kingsbury: Seconded the motion.

Representative Belter: Should we put in a penalty if someone leaves early?

Representative Boe: Penalties may work against the program. There will be reluctance to sign on.

Representative Rust: Is it at the end of first year they would get \$15,000 or is it at the beginning?

Gary Garland: This law was structured after other loan repayment programs we offer in the Dept. of Health. The first payment is made six months after they complete full-time service.

Representative Rust: That is \$15,000 midway through the first year.

Gary Garland: That is correct. The second payment would be made at the end of the second year which would mean an 18-month gap between the first payment and the second payment. The third and fourth payment, if they go for the total contract, would be at the end of the third and the end of the fourth year.

Representative Rust: Does it happen when you give a payment at the six-month period of the first year and they leave the very next month?

Gary Garland: It hasn't happened.

Representative Holman: Have you had a problem with people abusing this program or do most of them stay?

Gary Garland: Most of them stay to our knowledge.

Beth Carlson: Of the nine selected through this year, seven are still there. Three of them are practice owners or partners in the community. So they are committed to stay.

A Roll Call vote was taken. **Yes: 13, No: 0, Absent: 1,**
Representative Mueller)

DO PASS carries

Representative Rust will carry the bill.

Date: 3/3/11

Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2341

House **Agriculture** Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended
 Rerefer to Appropriations

Motion Made By Representative Boe Seconded By Vice Chairman Kingsbury

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Dennis Johnson, Chair	X		Tracy Boe	X	
Joyce Kingsbury, Vice Chair	X		Tom Conklin	X	
Wesley Belter	X		Richard Holman	X	
Craig Headland	X		Phillip Mueller	AB	
David Rust	X				
Mike Schatz	X				
Jim Schmidt	X				
Wayne Trottier	X				
John Wall	X				
Dwight Wrangham	X				

Total Yes 13 No 0

Absent 1

Bill Carrier Representative Rust

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2341, as engrossed: Agriculture Committee (Rep. D. Johnson, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed SB 2341 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

SB 2341

Doug Goehring
AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

Dr. Susan Keller
STATE VETERINARIAN

Dr. Beth Carlson
STATE VETERINARIAN

Dr. Jesse Vollmer
ASSISTANT STATE VETERINARIAN

Nathan Boehm, Mandan
PRESIDENT, DAIRY CATTLE

Melvin Leland, Sidney, MT
SECRETARY, REG. PUREBRED CATTLE

Dr. Charlie Stollenow, Fargo
CONSULTING VETERINARIAN



**STATE BOARD OF
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Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services

**Testimony of Beth W. Carlson, DVM
Deputy State Veterinarian
Senate Bill 2341
Senate Agriculture Committee
Roosevelt Park Room
February 4, 2011**

Dr. Morgan Dallman, Beulah
VETERINARIAN

David Pearson, Hettinger
SHEEP

Joel Olson, Almont
COMMERCIAL BEEF CATTLE

Daryl Dukart, Dunn Center
SWINE

Dr. W.P. Tidball, Beach
VETERINARIAN

Dr. Kenneth Throlson, New Rockford
BISON

Shawn Schafer, Turtle Lake
NONTRADITIONAL LIVESTOCK



Chairman Flakoll and members of the Agriculture Committee, I am Deputy State Veterinarian Beth Carlson. I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Animal Health in support of SB 2341, which amends sections of the North Dakota Century Code relating to the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program.

The Board of Animal Health strongly supports the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program, and is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to the State Health Council regarding who should receive funds through this program. Since the program was created during the 2007 legislative session, nine veterinarians have been selected to receive funds toward student loan repayment through the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program. At least three of the recipients are now solo or joint practice owners in the areas they were selected to serve. I believe the program has been successful in encouraging and allowing veterinarians to serve in areas in need of food animal veterinarians by lessening their debt load.

Unfortunately, two veterinarians selected for this program left before fulfilling their four year obligation. Because of the language in the current law, we were advised by our legal counsel that we could not select new veterinarians to replace the ones who had left. This is the reason we worked with the Health Department, North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, and North Dakota Stockmen's Association on drafting the changes brought forth in this bill. Additionally, current language in the law meant to give preference to North Dakota veterinarians who had not received any other state funds had the unintended effect of putting North Dakota veterinarians who had received state funds at a disadvantage compared to out of state veterinarians. For this reason, we support removing the language relating to previous state support.

Chairman Flakoll and committee members, for these reasons, we urge a do pass on SB 2341. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

North Dakota



#2

STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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SB 2341

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and committee members. For the record, my name is Sheyna Strommen and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

We appear in strong support of SB 2341, which affords more flexibility in the vet loan repayment program to utilize the funds set aside to entice food-animal vets to come to North Dakota to practice. As the language is currently written, if a recipient for some reason is unable to fulfill his or her commitment, those unspent funds cannot be channeled to another suitable candidate because of the restrictive language. The goal of the vet loan repayment program is to get more food-animal vets here in North Dakota to service the livestock sector. This change would help satisfy that goal even better.

We also support the striking of the provision that puts Professional Student Exchange recipients at a disadvantage in being selected for this program. Now, with all other factors being equal, a North Dakota native is at a disadvantage compared to an out-of-stater, who wouldn't be eligible for the Professional Student Exchange Program funding. While both programs support vets, their missions are different. The former is designed to provide reciprocity support for North Dakota students since the state doesn't provide a vet school. The vet loan repayment program is designed to attract food-animal vets to rural North Dakota. The vet loan repayment program has been positive for our industry. It is a good program and this is a good bill.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2345

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "to provide for the department of commerce to conduct a sugar-based feedstock biofuel demonstration plant feasibility study; and to provide an appropriation."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. SUGAR-BASED FEEDSTOCK BIOFUEL DEMONSTRATION PLANT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

1. During the 2011-13 interim, the department of commerce shall conduct a sugar-based feedstock biofuel demonstration plant feasibility study.
2. The feasibility study must:
 - a. Address the cost of a sugar-based feedstock biofuel demonstration plant;
 - b. Determine the nature and scope of existing and potential markets, both domestic and international, for sugar-based feedstock biofuel;
 - c. Review federal laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines regarding biofuels; and
 - d. Examine the potential for obtaining loans, grants, and other incentives in order to further the development of a sugar-based feedstock biofuel demonstration plant.
3. The department of commerce shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-third legislative assembly.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of commerce for the purpose of conducting an sugar-based feedstock biofuel demonstration plant feasibility study as provided under section 1 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013."

Renumber accordingly

Doug Goehring
AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

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STATE VETERINARIAN

Dr. Beth Carlson
DEPUTY STATE VETERINARIAN

Dr. Jesse Vollmer
ASSISTANT STATE VETERINARIAN

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Deputy State Veterinarian
Senate Bill 2341
House Agriculture Committee
Peace Garden Room
March 3, 2011**

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Chairman Johnson and committee members, for these reasons, we urge a do pass on SB 2341. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Senate 2341

#2
3/3/11

HOUSE BILL ~~1004~~ - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Nancy Kopp. I represent the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association

I appear before you this morning in support of the portion of ~~HB 1004~~ ^{SB 2341} that provides an appropriation for the Veterinarian Loan Forgiveness Program.

I do understand that the \$310,000 appropriation comes from the Community Health Trust fund to carryout the commitment to the 12 veterinarians currently in the program and are practicing in the underserved areas. In addition, the request of \$135,00 in general funds to accommodate the next biennium's applicants.

The NDVMA does support the continuance of the worthwhile program, as it has made great strides towards relieving the shortage of large animal veterinarians in rural North Dakota.

As a side note, it my understanding that a bill has been introduced in the Senate that will slightly amend the Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program, to address some of the administration issues and will be heard before the Senate Ag Committee on Friday.

The major revision asks to allow the Department of Health to select the number of applicants based only on the moneys available to support the program. Current language allows the Department to select no more than 3.

Thus far, the Department has provided loan repayments to veterinarians agreeing to serve in communities such as Ellendale, Hettinger, Steele, New Salem, McClusky, Park River and Ashley.

The program is working and I thank you for your support of implementing the program and ask for your favorable consideration of continued support at current levels.

SB 2341

#3
3/3/11

Good morning, Chairman Johnson and Ag Committee members. My name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

The NDSA rises in support of SB 2341, which will give the North Dakota Health Council additional flexibility in administering the Vet Loan Repayment Program. The program has helped entice large-animal vets to our state and address the shortage of food-animal practitioners that exists in many rural areas. That's an issue of concern for beef producers, as we rely on our local vets as valuable partners in ensuring healthy herds and, ultimately, a safe, wholesome food supply.

SB 2341 will allow the monies appropriated to be redirected to other qualified applicants if the original recipients are for some reason unable to fulfill their commitment. It will also allow additional candidates to be selected if monies become available via grants, gifts and donations. Furthermore, striking the priority reduction of former Professional Student Exchange Program recipients will put North Dakota vets on par for consideration, where many now are at a competitive disadvantage because of the current requirement.

The changes this bill will make to the Vet Loan Repayment Program are positive for the beef industry, and we ask for your favorable consideration of it