

# CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Austin, Texas

05/26/2023

Date

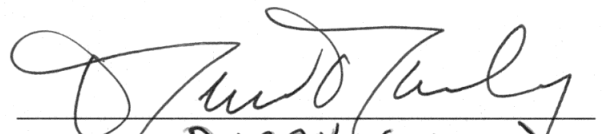
Honorable Dan Patrick  
President of the Senate

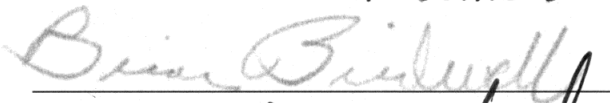
Honorable Dade Phelan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

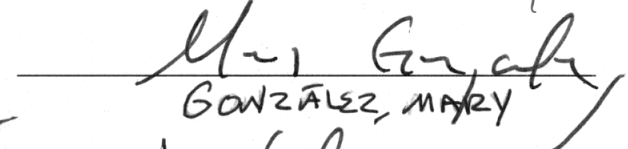
Sirs:

We, Your Conference Committee, appointed to adjust the differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives on HOUSE BILL 2026 have had the same under consideration, and beg to report it back with the recommendation that it do pass in the form and text hereto attached.

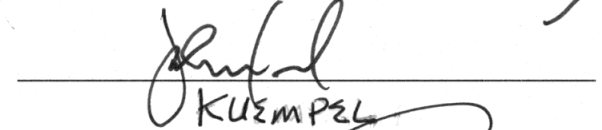
  
LAMANTIA (CHAIR)

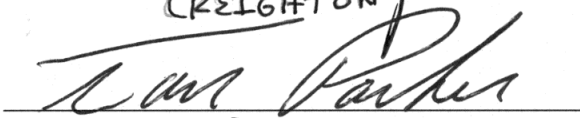
  
DARBY (CHAIR)

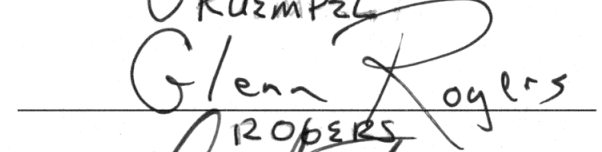
  
BIRDWELL

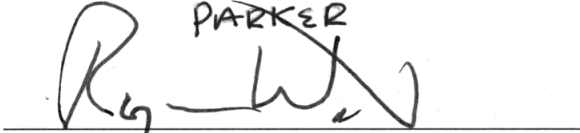
  
GONZALEZ, MARY

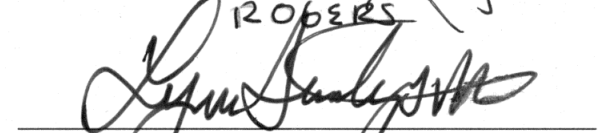
  
CREIGHTON

  
KUEMPFL

  
PARKER

  
ROYERS

  
WEST On the part of the Senate

  
STUCKY On the part of the House

### Note to Conference Committee Clerk:

Please type the names of the members of the Conference Committee under the lines provided for signature. Those members desiring to sign the report should sign each of the six copies. Attach a copy of the Conference Committee Report and a Section by Section side by side comparison to each of the six reporting forms. The original and two copies are filed in house of origin of the bill, and three copies in the other house.



# CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

3<sup>rd</sup> Printing

H.B. No. 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

4 SECTION 1. Section 56.101(7), Education Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (7) "Rural county" means a county in this state with a  
7 population of less than 150,000 [~~100,000~~].

8 SECTION 2. Section 56.105(b), Education Code, is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (b) To participate as a sponsor in the program, the  
11 community or political subdivision must enter into an agreement  
12 with the eligible participant to provide financial support to the  
13 eligible participant in an amount not less than the tuition and fees  
14 required for a full academic year for a student enrolled in a [~~the~~]  
15 college in exchange for the eligible participant's agreement to  
16 practice veterinary medicine in the sponsoring community or  
17 political subdivision.

18 SECTION 3. Sections 56.106(a) and (b), Education Code, are  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (a) To participate in the program, an eligible participant  
21 must enter into an agreement with the Texas Higher Education  
22 Coordinating Board [~~university system~~] that:

23 (1) requires the participant to practice veterinary  
24 medicine in a rural county for one calendar year for each academic

1 year for which the participant receives financial support under the  
2 program;

3 (2) specifies the conditions the participant must  
4 satisfy to receive financial support under the program;

5 (3) provides that any financial support the  
6 participant receives under the program constitutes a loan until the  
7 participant satisfies the conditions of the agreement; and

8 (4) requires the participant to sign a promissory note  
9 acknowledging the conditional nature of the financial support  
10 received under the program and promising to repay the amount of the  
11 financial support, any applicable interest, and reasonable  
12 collection costs if the participant does not satisfy the conditions  
13 of the agreement.

14 (b) The financial support received by an eligible  
15 participant under this subchapter must be used to retire student  
16 loan debt or to pay tuition and fees to a college [~~the university~~  
17 ~~system~~] while the eligible participant is enrolled in the college.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

**House Bill 2026**  
Conference Committee Report  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 1. Sections 56.101(2) and (7), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

***(2) "College" means a college of veterinary medicine [located in this state and] accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.***

(7) "Rural county" means a county in this state with a population of less than 150,000 [~~100,000~~].

SECTION 2. Section 56.103(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The committee shall adopt rules:

(1) establishing criteria to determine whether a person is an eligible participant as the committee considers reasonable, including the person's:

(A) background and interest in rural practice; and

(B) financial need;

(2) providing for requesting the distribution of money from the account for the program;

(3) establishing the criteria necessary for a community or political subdivision in a rural county to qualify as a student sponsor under Section 56.105;

(4) governing agreements of financial support between a rural sponsor and an eligible student;

(5) establishing preferential treatment in the selection process for applicants who:

(A) are residents of this state;

***(B) graduated from a high school located in this state or general academic teaching institution located in this state;***

***or***

***(C) graduated from an accredited college of veterinary medicine in this state;*** and

SENATE VERSION (IE)

SECTION \_\_. Section 56.101(7), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(7) "Rural county" means a county in this state with a population of less than 150,000 [~~100,000~~]. [FA1(1)]

SECTION 2. Section 56.103(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The committee shall adopt rules:

(1) establishing criteria to determine whether a person is an eligible participant as the committee considers reasonable, including the person's:

(A) background and interest in rural practice; and

(B) financial need;

(2) providing for requesting the distribution of money from the account for the program;

(3) establishing the criteria necessary for a community or political subdivision in a rural county to qualify as a student sponsor under Section 56.105;

(4) governing agreements of financial support between a rural sponsor and an eligible student;

(5) establishing preferential treatment in the selection process for applicants who are residents of this state; and

[FA1(2)]

CONFERENCE

SECTION 1. Same as Senate version.

***No equivalent provision.***

**House Bill 2026**  
Conference Committee Report  
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

(6) [(5)] establishing other procedures necessary to administer the program.

SECTION 3. Section 56.104, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 56.104. ELIGIBLE VETERINARY STUDENT OR GRADUATE. A [(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a] person is eligible to participate in the program only if the person:

- (1) is enrolled as a student of a [the] college or applies to participate in the program on or before the fourth anniversary of the date the person graduates from a [the] college;
- (2) will receive or has received from a student loan at least 50 percent of the funds for tuition and fees for one or more academic years while enrolled in the college; and
- (3) meets any additional qualifications adopted by the committee.

~~[(b) A person enrolled as a student in an accredited college of veterinary medicine located outside of this state may apply under Subsection (a) to participate in the program if the student graduated from a high school located in this state or a general academic teaching institution located in this state.]~~

SECTION 4. Section 56.105(b), Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 5. Sections 56.106(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended.

SECTION 6. Effective date.

SENATE VERSION (IE)

(6) [(5)] establishing other procedures necessary to administer the program.

*No equivalent provision.* SECTION 3. [Deleted by FA1(3)]

SECTION 4. Same as House version.

SECTION 5. Same as House version.

SECTION 6. Same as House version.

CONFERENCE

Same as Senate version.

SECTION 2. Same as House version.

SECTION 3. Same as House version.

SECTION 4. Same as House version.

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 88TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 26, 2023**

**TO:** Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor, Senate  
Honorable Dade Phelan, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB2026** by Darby (Relating to the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program.), **Conference Committee Report**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend various Education Code provisions related to the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program. It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 554 Animal Health Commission, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board

**LBB Staff:** JMc, SD, CMA, MOc, GO, JSM

**Certification of Compliance with  
Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure**

Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, requires that a copy of a conference committee report signed by a majority of each committee of the conference be furnished to each member of the committee in person or, if unable to deliver in person, by placing a copy in the member's newspaper mailbox at least one hour before the report is furnished to each member of the house under Rule 13, Section 10(a). The paper copies of the report submitted to the chief clerk under Rule 13, Section 10(b), must contain a certificate that the requirement of Rule 13, Section 6(b), has been satisfied, and that certificate must be attached to the copy of the report furnished to each member under Rule 13, Section 10(d). Failure to comply with this requirement is not a sustainable point of order.

I certify that a copy of the conference committee report on HOUSE BILL 2026 was furnished to each member of the conference committee in compliance with Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, before paper copies of the report were submitted to the chief clerk under Rule 13, Section 10(b), House Rules of Procedure.

  
(Signature)

5/26/2023  
(Date)