



January 8, 2026

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## HOUSE BILL No. 1024

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DIGEST OF HB 1024 (Updated January 8, 2026 9:26 am - DI 140)

**Citations Affected:** IC 21-13.

**Synopsis:** Veterinary student loan repayment program. Establishes the veterinary medicine student loan repayment program (program) and the veterinary medicine student loan repayment fund (fund). Provides that the Indiana state board of animal health shall administer the program and the fund.

**Effective:** July 1, 2026.

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December 1, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.  
January 8, 2026, reported — Do Pass. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means pursuant to Rule 126.3.

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HB 1024—LS 6065/DI 148





January 8, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1024

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning higher education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 21-13-1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.232-2025,  
2 SECTION 20, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. "Fund":

4 (1) for purposes of IC 21-13-2, refers to the William A. Crawford  
5 minority teacher scholarship fund established by IC 21-13-2-1;

6 (2) for purposes of IC 21-13-4, refers to the National Guard  
7 tuition supplement program fund established by IC 21-13-4-1;

8 (3) for purposes of IC 21-13-5, refers to the National Guard  
9 scholarship extension fund established by IC 21-13-5-1;

10 (4) for purposes of IC 21-13-6, refers to the primary care  
11 physician loan forgiveness fund established by IC 21-13-6-3;

12 (5) for purposes of IC 21-13-6.5, refers to the medical residency  
13 education fund established by IC 21-13-6.5-1; ~~and~~

14 (6) for purposes of IC 21-13-12, refers to the county deputy  
15 prosecuting attorney and public defender scholarship fund  
16 established by IC 21-13-12-6; **and**

17 **(7) for purposes of IC 21-13-13, refers to the veterinary**

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1           **medicine student loan repayment program fund established**  
2           **by IC 21-13-13-3.**

3           SECTION 2. IC 21-13-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
4           AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
5           JULY 1, 2026]:

6           **Chapter 13. Veterinary Medicine Student Loan Repayment**  
7           **Program**

8           **Sec. 1. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions**  
9           **apply:**

10           (1) "Fund" refers to the veterinary medicine student loan  
11           repayment program fund established by section 3 of this  
12           chapter.

13           (2) "Program" refers to the veterinary medicine student loan  
14           repayment program established by section 2 of this chapter.

15           **Sec. 2. (a) The veterinary medicine student loan repayment**  
16           **program is established.**

17           (b) The Indiana state board of animal health shall administer  
18           the program.

19           **Sec. 3. (a) The veterinary medicine student loan repayment**  
20           **program fund is established to provide funds to repay outstanding**  
21           **student loans of:**

22           (1) veterinarians; or

23           (2) veterinary technicians;

24           who meet the requirements established by the Indiana state board  
25           of animal health.

26           (b) The Indiana state board of animal health shall administer  
27           the fund.

28           (c) The fund consists of the following:

29           (1) Appropriations from the general assembly.

30           (2) Grants, including federal grants.

31           (3) Gifts or donations to the Indiana state board of animal  
32           health to achieve the purposes of the fund.

33           (4) Interest accrued under subsection (d).

34           (d) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not  
35           currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same  
36           manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that  
37           accrues from investments under this subsection must be deposited  
38           in the fund.

39           (e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not  
40           revert to the state general fund.

41           (f) The expenses of administering the fund may be paid from  
42           money in the fund but must not exceed the amounts deposited in



the fund under subsection (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(4).

(g) A person that provides money to the fund under subsection (c)(3) may direct that the money be used for loan repayments for a specific:

- (1) veterinarian practice type; or
- (2) geographic area of Indiana.

Sec. 4. The Indiana state board of animal health shall do the following:

- (1) Establish requirements for the program.
- (2) Identify individuals who qualify for the program.
- (3) Determine the amount and duration of the student loan repayment award that an eligible individual receives.
- (4) Identify areas of need.

Sec. 5. (a) To be eligible to receive a student loan repayment award, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Apply on a form prescribed by the Indiana state board of animal health.
- (2) Be a:
  - (A) licensed, accredited veterinarian; or
  - (B) registered veterinarian technician;
 who is licensed or registered under IC 25-38.1-3.
- (3) Be a resident of Indiana and a citizen of the United States.
- (4) Have an outstanding student loan balance from loans secured during professional training at an accredited:
  - (A) college of veterinary medicine; or
  - (B) veterinary technician program.
- (5) Agree to practice full time in the veterinary profession and provide essential services in Indiana for a specific number of years as determined by the Indiana state board of animal health. When determining essential services in Indiana, the Indiana state board of animal health shall consider the following factors:
  - (A) Rural or other geographic areas of the state that are currently underserved.
  - (B) Food animal or other areas of veterinary practice that are either:
    - (i) currently experiencing; or
    - (ii) projected to experience;
 a shortage of veterinary practitioners or veterinary technicians.
  - (C) Any other factor that:
    - (i) furthers the protection of human and animal health;



1 and

2 (ii) ensures the efficient and principled delivery of  
3 veterinary medical services in Indiana.

4 (b) The Indiana state board of animal health shall:

5 (1) determine the amount of a student loan repayment award  
6 that an eligible individual receives under this chapter; and

7 (2) establish the process for an eligible individual to receive  
8 multi-year awards under this chapter.

9 Sec. 6. The Indiana state board of animal health shall transfer  
10 student loan repayment awards under this chapter directly to the  
11 holder of the eligible individual's outstanding student loans.

12 Sec. 7. The Indiana state board of animal health may make  
13 student loan repayment awards to an eligible individual until the  
14 balance of the eligible individual's student loans is paid in full.

15 Sec. 8. (a) The Indiana state board of animal health shall  
16 prepare a report that includes the following:

17 (1) The receipt, disbursement, and uses of money from the  
18 fund.

19 (2) The number of applications submitted for student loan  
20 repayment under the program.

21 (3) The number and amount of student loan repayment  
22 awards that have been provided.

23 (4) An evaluation of the short term and long term impact of  
24 the program on Indiana's delivery of veterinary medical  
25 services.

26 (5) Any other information collected concerning the fund,  
27 program, or student loan repayments awarded under this  
28 chapter.

29 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, and not later than July 1 every  
30 two (2) years thereafter, the Indiana state board of animal health  
31 shall submit the report described in subsection (a) to the following:

32 (1) The governor.

33 (2) The general assembly in an electronic format under  
34 IC 5-14-6.

35 Sec. 9. The Indiana state board of animal health shall adopt  
36 rules under IC 4-22-2 to:

37 (1) establish eligibility requirements to receive student loan  
38 repayment awards under the program; and

39 (2) otherwise administer the program.



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, to which was referred House Bill 1024, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1024 as introduced.)

AYLESWORTH

Committee Vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0

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