



1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Homeless pets and owned pets are going untreated for sometimes serious injury and illness because access to veterinary care is simply out of reach. This causes both animal and human suffering. AB 1237 will attract existing veterinary professionals to practice where the need is the greatest.

2) **Background.** The American Veterinary Medical Association reports the average veterinary school graduate debt is \$188,853. The US Department of Agriculture offers the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. The program helps qualified veterinarians repay up to \$75,000 of debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary degrees in return for at least three years of service in designated veterinary shortage areas.

3) **Prior Legislation.** AB 982 (Firebaugh), Chapter 1131, Statutes of 2002, created both the Dental Corps Loan Repayment Program and the Steven M. Thompson California Physician

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