



For Immediate Release
March 10, 2023

Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program Committee Rule Proposals Open for Public Comment Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) hosted a scheduled meeting for the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program (RVIP) Committee on February 23, 2023, at its headquarters in Austin.

House Bill 1259 of the 87th Texas Legislature, transferred administration of the Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program to the TAHC and established the RVIP Committee. Texas Education Code §56.103(d) mandated that the RVIP Committee adopt rules to select participants, provide for the request to distribute money, establish criteria necessary for qualification as a rural sponsor, govern agreements of financial support between the rural sponsor and an eligible participant, and other rules and procedures as necessary.

The following rules were proposed during the meeting and are open for comment from March 10 – April 10, 2023.

Chapter 42, Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program

Related to the establishment and administration of the RVIP, the proposed rule §42.1 sets out the authority to establish procedures to administer the RVIP and states the purpose is to encourage veterinary students and recent graduates to practice veterinary medicine in rural counties in Texas. Proposed rule §42.3 specifies the administrative duties of the TAHC and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Proposed rule §42.5 provides definitions related to the other proposed sections in this chapter. Proposed rule §42.7 specifies the TAHC's role in publishing RVIP information and applications on its website.

In regard to the functionality of the RVIP, the proposed rule §42.9 lists eligibility requirements, and proposed rule §42.11 directs the TAHC to screen each application for eligibility and completeness. Proposed rule §42.13 specifies the RVIP application evaluation criteria and the process the RVIP Committee uses to score, rank, and select participants. Proposed rule §42.15 provides the instances where an application can be denied, allows for the voluntary withdrawal of an application, and provides an opportunity for applicants to reapply in future application rounds. Proposed rule §42.17 provides the eligibility requirements to be a rural community sponsor under the RVIP. Proposed rule §42.19 sets out the requirements for an eligible loan under the RVIP. Proposed rule §42.21 specifies the amount of financial support that may be awarded and explains that the amount of financial



support is contingent on available funding. Proposed rule §42.23 identifies the required terms for the financial agreement a participant must sign to receive RVIP financial support.

Comments on the proposed rules must be submitted in writing to Amanda Bernhard, Texas Animal Health Commission, 2105 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, by fax at (512) 719-0719 or by email to comments@tahc.texas.gov.

Complete details of the rule proposals are available on the TAHC website at <https://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html#proposals>.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.