



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

December 22, 2025

Honorable Imani Barnes
State Representative
507-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 88 (LC 61 0189S)

Dear Representative Barnes:

The bill would allow for the purchase of educational loans made to veterinary technicians. Eligibility is limited to veterinary technicians who have completed a program of study in veterinary technology, are residents of and authorized to practice veterinary technology in Georgia, and have been practicing veterinary technology for ten years or less. Eligible applicants must practice in an approved rural county with a population of 50,000 or less.

As shown in **Table 1**, estimated annual costs to implement the bill total \$167,124 in year one, growing to \$267,124 by year three. The annual sum of loan payments is based on the maximum amount per loan purchase (up to \$30,000 total, or \$10,000 per year) and the limit on the number of new agreements (no more than five per year), as specified in the bill.

Table 1. Estimated Costs of Veterinary Technician Loan Purchases

	Year 1 Costs	Year 2 Costs	Year 3+ Costs
Maximum Loan Payments	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Administration			
State Veterinary Education Board	\$108,100	\$108,100	\$108,100
Georgia Student Finance Commission	<u>\$9,024</u>	<u>\$9,024</u>	<u>\$9,024</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$167,124	\$217,124	\$267,124

The State Veterinary Education Board would implement the bill's provisions. In addition to the loan repayment amounts, estimated costs include an additional staff member for the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDOA). The agency noted that it operates an existing Georgia Veterinary Education Loan Repayment Program and will administer an additional loan repayment program in 2026. GDOA reported that an additional staff member is needed for this program because the staff who administer those programs are primarily assigned to other duties and would not be able to absorb the workload created by the bill.

In addition, the board administers the existing loan forgiveness program in partnership with the Georgia Student Finance Commission (GSFC), which coordinates with the board and makes payments to approved applicants' lenders. GSFC's estimate assumes similar duties would be performed to implement the bill's provisions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg S. Griffin".

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Dunn".

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/jm