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H.F. 1189 appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for the Large Animal Veterinarian Loan Forgiveness Program. The bill sets the base for the program in fiscal year 2028 at \$0.

Background: The 2009 Legislature established a program to provide loan forgiveness to up to five large animal veterinarians that work in underserved rural areas and work full time in a practice that is at least 50 percent involved in the care of food animals. The program received onetime appropriations in 2009 and 2015 but has not previously received ongoing funding.

The initial appropriation for the program in 2009 was \$225,000 in onetime funding. That appropriation did not expire. The 2015 Legislature appropriated \$250,000 in onetime funding for the program. That appropriation is available until 2022.