

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1651

To authorize assistance to be provided under certain rural development programs for the establishment or expansion of animal care facilities or veterinary practices in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2019

Mr. FORTENBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize assistance to be provided under certain rural development programs for the establishment or expansion of animal care facilities or veterinary practices in rural areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Returning Essential
5 Rural Veterinary Animal Care Act” or the “RE-VAC
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED**
2 **UNDER CERTAIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
3 **GRAMS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPAN-**
4 **SION OF ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES OR VET-**
5 **ERINARY PRACTICES IN RURAL AREAS.**

6 (a) **COMMUNITY FACILITIES LOANS AND GRANTS.**—
7 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
8 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following:

10 “(27) **COMMUNITY FACILITY DIRECT LOANS**
11 **AND GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPANSION**
12 **OF ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES OR VETERINARY PRAC-**
13 **TICES IN RURAL AREAS.**—The Secretary may pro-
14 vide community facility direct loans and grants
15 under paragraphs (1), (19), (20), and (21) for the
16 establishment or expansion of an animal care facility
17 or a veterinary practice in a rural area. The Sec-
18 retary may not deny such a loan or grant to an enti-
19 ty otherwise eligible for the loan or grant on the
20 basis that any facility constructed using the loan or
21 grant will be used by a for-profit entity.”

22 (b) **RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND**
23 **GRANTS.**—Section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification
24 Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2(a)) is amended by at the
25 end the following: “A project designed to establish or ex-
26 pand an animal care facility or a veterinary practice in

1 a rural area shall be eligible for a grant or loan under
2 this section. The Secretary may not deny such a grant
3 or loan to an entity otherwise eligible for the grant or loan
4 on the basis that any facility constructed using the grant
5 or loan will be used by a for-profit entity.”.

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