

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1790

BY: HEFNER, RICE, MONKS,  
SMITH (Bill), MITCHELL,  
HILLIARD and STANLEY of  
the HOUSE

and

EASLEY of the SENATE

AN ACT RELATING TO SOLDIERS AND SAILORS; AMENDING 72  
O.S. 1991, SECTION 63.5, WHICH RELATES TO THE WAR  
VETERANS COMMISSION OF OKLAHOMA AND THE DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS; MODIFYING AUTHORIZATION FOR  
COLLECTION OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS; CLARIFYING PERSONS  
AUTHORIZED TO BE ADMITTED TO VETERANS CENTERS; AND  
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 1991, Section 63.5, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 63.5 The War Veterans Commission is hereby authorized  
to make collections from eligible patients and members for care and  
~~treatment~~ maintenance. Payments shall be established in the  
following manner:

1. All sources of personal income, except wages of a working  
spouse, except as provided in this section, shall be considered when  
computing care and ~~treatment~~ maintenance charges, including pensions  
and awards for aid and attendance from the Veterans Administration;

2. Care and maintenance charges shall be computed in a manner  
to maximize the Veterans Administration pension and compensation

benefits to which the veteran is entitled and shall allow a veteran to retain not less than One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per month of total monthly income;

3. The care and ~~treatment~~ maintenance charge shall not exceed the full cost of care minus the Veterans Administration per diem payment;

4. ~~Wives and widows~~ Spouses, widows and widowers of eligible war veterans are authorized to be admitted and maintained in the Oklahoma veterans centers. The facilities admitting and maintaining ~~wives and widows~~ spouses, widows and widowers shall make collections from said ~~wives and widows~~ spouses, widows and widowers first and to the fullest extent from sources of income other than pension and compensation paid by the Veterans Administration; and

5. The claim of the state for such care and ~~treatment~~ maintenance shall constitute a valid indebtedness against any such patient or member and his estate and shall not be barred by any statute of limitations except as otherwise allowed by the Oklahoma Indigent Health Care Act. At the death of the patient or member, this claim shall be allowed and paid as other lawful claims against the estate. Provided, no admission or detention of a patient in an Oklahoma veterans center shall be limited or conditioned in any manner by the lack of ability to pay of a patient or member, his estate, or any relative of the patient or member. Any monies collected by the provisions of this section shall be deposited in the Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving Fund.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1992.

Passed the House of Representatives the 9th day of March, 1992.

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1992.

President of the Senate