

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1234

By: Kirby and Covey

An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; stating legislative intent; directing the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to establish certain safety program; authorizing expenditure of certain fund for certain purpose; authorizing certain awards for certain purposes; limiting certain awards; specifying such award as an employee service benefit; requiring promulgation and adoption of certain rules; amending 72 O.S. 1991, Section 222, which relates to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving Fund; authorizing additional expenditures from the Fund for certain purposes; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 50.24 of Title 72, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the promotion of safety in the workplace is a legitimate public purpose. In order to establish a public employee benefit program to encourage safety in the workplace, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is hereby

directed to establish an on-the-job employee safety program which encourages work unit safety and reduces the loss of productivity and compensation costs. The Department is further authorized to expend monies which are available from the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving Fund as necessary for the purchase of recognition awards. The awards, which recognize the safety achievement of the work unit or individual employees, shall consist of distinctive wearing apparel, service pins, or U.S. Savings Bonds which shall not exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per employee per year. These awards shall be considered employee service benefits. The Department shall promulgate and adopt rules for awarding such employees in accordance with the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 1991, Section 222, is amended to read as follows:

Section 222. A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a Revolving Fund for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to be known as the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving Fund. The said Revolving Fund shall consist of all funds and monies received by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, its constituent institutions, and/or, the War Veterans Commission of Oklahoma, from any gifts, contributions, bequests, individual reimbursements except as otherwise provided by law, and other sources of revenue, for the care or support of war veterans discharged other than under dishonorable conditions, who have been admitted and cared for at the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Centers, at Ardmore, Claremore, Clinton, Norman, Sulphur or Talihina. Provided no grants-in-aid, reimbursements, or other revenue from the United States government or any instrumentality of the United States government shall be deposited in said fund. Provided further, nothing contained herein prohibits the establishment and utilization of special agency accounts by the Department of Veterans Affairs and its constituent institutions, as

may be approved by the Special Agency Account Board, for receipt and disbursement of the personal funds of Veteran Center patients and members and/or for receipt and disbursement of charitable contributions and donations for use by and for patients and members.

B. The Revolving Fund herein created shall be used by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for the care of war veterans discharged other than under dishonorable conditions, in said Veterans Centers, to pay the general operating expenses of the Veterans Centers, including the payment of salaries and wages of officials and employees and to remodel, repair, construct, build additions, modernize, or add improvements of domiciliary or hospital buildings necessary for the care of veterans, including tuberculosis, mentally ill or neuropsychiatric patients, but not excluding others; and architectural plans, specifications, or other costs pertinent thereto.

C. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to expend monies from the Revolving Fund for the purpose of providing awards to work units or individual employees which recognize their safety achievements pursuant to Section 1 of this act.

D. The Department of Veterans Affairs may transfer monies from the revolving fund created in this section to the W.V.C. Revolving Fund in the State Treasury.

~~D.~~ E. All expenditures from said Revolving Fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer based upon claims approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as provided by law, and filed with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1997.

Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of March, 1997.

Speaker

of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1997.

President

of the Senate