

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1676

By: Hefner of the House

and

Helton of the Senate

An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending 72 O.S. 1991, Sections 67.13a and 221.1, which relate to veterans; modifying the definition of war veterans; deleting obsolete language; providing legal description for the Oklahoma Veterans Center at Norman; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 1991, Section 67.13a, is amended to read as follows:

Section 67.13a The words "war veterans" used in Section 67.13 of this title shall be construed to mean such honorably discharged persons as served:

~~(a) served in 1. In the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the period from April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or;~~

~~(b) served in 2. In the Armed Forces of the United States as members of the 45th Division at any time during the period from September 16, 1940, to December 7, 1941, both dates inclusive, or;~~

~~(c) served in 3. In the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the period from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, both dates inclusive, or;~~

~~(d) served in 4. In the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the period from June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955, both dates inclusive, or;~~

~~(e) served for 5. For a period of ninety (90) days or more, unless discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability, in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period of time in which the United States participated in a war, campaign or battle, but excluding any person who shall have served on active duty for training only, unless discharged from active duty for service-connected disability, or;~~

~~(f) served in the Armed Forces of the United States in a combat zone or in the immediate supporting area of the combat zone as certified by the War Veterans Commission of Oklahoma, prior to August 5, 1964, or~~

~~(g) served in 6. In the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the period which began on:~~

a. February 28, 1961, and ended on May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period, and

b. August 5, 1964, and ended on May 7, 1975, in all other cases,

except that such period shall be deemed to have ended on December 31, 1976, when determining eligibility for education and training benefits, or

~~(h) served in 7. In the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the period which began on or after August 1, 1990, and ended on December 31, 1991, excluding any person who shall have served on active duty for training only, unless discharged from active duty for service-connected disability.~~

The term "war veterans" shall include only those persons who shall have served during the times or in the areas prescribed ~~hereinabove~~ in this section, and those persons who were awarded service medals, as authorized by the United States Department of Defense as reflected in the veteran's Defense Department Form 214, related to the Vietnam Conflict who served prior to August 5, 1964. Any honorably discharged war veteran of any of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be entitled to such tax exemptions to include but not be limited to tax-exempt veterans' benefits as provided in ~~subsection (1),~~ paragraph 12 of Section 2405 2887 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, special permits and veterans' preferences for state employment, provided, that any person who shall have served on active duty for training purposes only shall not be entitled to any such tax exemptions, special permits or veterans' preferences.

War veterans, as defined ~~above~~ in this section, shall receive maximum benefits available for each year of creditable service, not to exceed five (5) years, for active military service for retirement benefits in the retirement systems within the State of Oklahoma; however, this provision shall apply to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission only if approved by the federal funding source of the Oklahoma Security Commission. The provisions of this act shall include military retirees, whose retirement was based only on active service, that have been rated as having twenty percent (20%) or greater service-connected disability by the Veterans Administration or the Armed Forces of the United States.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 1991, Section 221.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 221.1 Effective July 1, 1979, the responsibility for the operation and administration of the Oklahoma Veterans Center, Norman, Oklahoma, shall be assumed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Thereafter, the Oklahoma Veterans Center, Norman, shall operate as a separate institution under the direction and control of the Department of Veterans Affairs. ~~The Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in cooperation with the Superintendent of Central State Griffin Memorial Hospital, and the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall arrange for and effect the transfer of such personnel, property, records, equipment, supplies, outstanding encumbrances, and necessary funds to satisfy such encumbrances, from Central State Griffin Memorial Hospital to the Oklahoma Veterans Center, Norman, that are appropriate to the orderly transfer of subject responsibility. Affected parties will coordinate with the Director of State Finance prior to any final determination on the transfer of encumbrances and funds~~ The facility shall be described as such real property situated in Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, and more particularly described as follows: The North half (N 1/2) of Section 28, Township 9 North, Range 2 West, Indian Meridian, Cleveland County, less and except the West half (W 1/2) of the Northwest quarter (NW 1/4) of Section 28, said tract containing 240 acres more or less.

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

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 7th day of May, 1997.

Speaker of the House of  
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 8th day of May, 1997.

President of the Senate