

3 Senate Bill No. 2260

4 SENATE BILL NO. 2260 - By: Russell of the Senate and Wesselhoft of  
5 the House.

6 An Act relating to state government; amending 74 O.S. 2001,  
7 Section 840-2.24, which relates to specialized disaster  
8 relief services; authorizing leave time for participation in  
9 Civil Air Patrol disaster services; encouraging private  
10 employers to participate in volunteer disaster service  
11 programs; making language gender neutral; encouraging school  
12 districts to participate in volunteer disaster service  
13 programs; and providing an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2001, Section 840-2.24, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 840-2.24 A. 1. As used in this subsection, "disaster"  
18 means disasters designated at level III and above in the American  
19 Red Cross Regulations and Procedures.

20 2. Any state employee in the executive branch of state  
21 government who is a certified disaster service volunteer of the  
22 American Red Cross or a member of the United States Air Force  
23 Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol, with the authorization of the chief  
24 executive officer of ~~his~~ the state agency, may be granted a leave  
25 with pay not to exceed fifteen (15) working days in any twelve-month  
26 period to participate in specialized disaster relief services within  
27 the State of Oklahoma for the American Red Cross or the United

1 States Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol, upon the request of the  
2 American Red Cross or the United States Air Force Auxiliary Civil  
3 Air Patrol and with the approval of the office of the Governor of  
4 this state, without the loss of pay, annual leave, sick leave,  
5 accrued overtime wages or compensatory time. The agency shall  
6 compensate an employee granted leave time under this section at his  
7 or her regular rate of pay for those regular work hours during which  
8 the employee is absent from work.

9 3. Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 2 of this  
10 subsection, state employees certified as disaster volunteers shall  
11 not exceed five hundred (500) participants at any one time. A list  
12 of such employees will be coordinated with the Department of Civil  
13 Emergency Management and the office of the Governor of this state.  
14 Within sixty (60) days of any request made by the American Red Cross  
15 or the United States Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol, a report  
16 shall be prepared by the American Red Cross or the United States Air  
17 Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol and submitted to the Governor's  
18 office stating the reasons and needs for any request made.

19 B. Any state officer or employee in the executive branch of  
20 state government authorized by the employing agency of the officer  
21 or employee to volunteer in a disaster relief activity during a  
22 presidentially declared national disaster in Oklahoma after May 1,  
23 1999, for a period of not more than six (6) months after the date of

1 the presidentially declared national disaster, shall not have to use  
2 accrued leave or need to make up any time due to the performance of  
3 their volunteer activities.

4 C. Private employers are encouraged to allow their employees to  
5 take leave in order to participate in volunteer disaster service  
6 programs.

7 D. School administrators are encouraged to allow students,  
8 sixteen (16) years of age or older to be out of school to  
9 participate in volunteer disaster service programs.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS, dated  
12 2-10-10 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.