

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR ENGROSSED

5 SENATE BILL NO. 228

By: Simpson, Ivester, Allen and
Shortey of the Senate

6 and

7 Hardin of the House

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to education and training programs;
12 creating the Quality Workforce for Oklahoma's Heroes
13 Act; providing short title; authorizing the Oklahoma
14 Department of Veterans Affairs to establish programs;
15 authorizing certain contracts; providing for funding
16 of programs; clarifying employee status; establishing
17 criteria for participation in program; authorizing
18 tuition reimbursement for successful candidates;
19 outlining procedures for promissory note;
20 establishing penalties; authorizing payment of
21 certain fees; directing promulgation of rules;
22 providing for codification; and providing an
23 effective date.

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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 1735 of Title 74, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Quality
2 Workforce for Oklahoma's Heroes Act".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1735.1 of Title 74, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 Beginning November 1, 2013, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
7 Affairs is authorized to establish education and training programs
8 for positions critical to the quality care of veterans residing
9 within Department institutions. The Department may contract with
10 accredited institutions necessary to provide this education and
11 training. Funds of the Department or its institutions may be used
12 to pay salaries or tuition and subsistence for employees in these
13 training programs, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this
14 section. Employees may be in work status while engaging in training
15 and education programs provided for in this section.

16 1. An employee of the Department, who has achieved a "meets" or
17 "exceeds" standards on his or her performance evaluation and meets
18 the standards as established in rules promulgated pursuant to this
19 act, shall be eligible for additional education and/or training
20 provided by the Department.

21 2. An employee of the Department who participates in the
22 education and training program outlined in this act shall execute a
23 promissory note for expenses payable to the Department whereby the
24 employee promises to repay the note by remaining in employment with

1 the Department. The duration of the loan repayment will correspond
2 with the program in which the employee participated as set forth in
3 rules promulgated for the implementation of this act.

4 a. The amount due pursuant to this act shall be reduced
5 at a rate of Thirteen Dollars (\$13.00) per calendar
6 day beginning the first day after graduation from the
7 education or training program. If for any reason the
8 employee leaves the employment of the Department, the
9 obligation will be considered due.

10 b. Violation of the provisions of the terms of the
11 promissory note for training expenses entered into
12 pursuant to this section shall give rise to a cause of
13 action and suit may be commenced by the Department for
14 and on behalf of the State of Oklahoma for restitution
15 of any and all sums plus interest at the statutory
16 rate, costs, and reasonable attorney fees. The
17 provisions of this section shall not apply to persons
18 who volunteer or are drafted into active military
19 service subsequent to receiving training at state
20 expense.

21 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1735.2 of Title 74, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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1 The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs may pay fees for
2 employees to maintain licenses and certification required to provide
3 quality care and maintain accreditation at Department institutions.
4 The Department may require repayment of such fees pursuant to
5 paragraph 2 of Section 2 of this act.

6 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1735.3 of Title 74, unless there
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 The War Veterans Commission of Oklahoma, in cooperation with the
10 Office of Management and Enterprise Services, shall promulgate rules
11 pursuant to the implementation of this act.

12 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2013.

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