

1 Section 63.1. There is hereby created the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
2 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~, and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
3 Affairs, which shall be a cabinet-level department pursuant to the
4 provisions of Section 10.3 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
5 The Department shall consist of a departmental headquarters and such
6 Veterans Centers as are operated by the Department. The Department
7 shall be administered under such rules, regulations and policies as
8 may be prescribed by the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission. All
9 reference in any law of this state referring to or naming the
10 Soldiers Relief Commission shall be construed to refer to and name
11 the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~.

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.2, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Section 63.2. The ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~
15 shall consist of nine (9) members. Members shall be honorably
16 discharged veterans of any war or conflict in which the United
17 States participated as a belligerent provided three of the members
18 shall be veterans of the Vietnam Conflict. The members shall be
19 selected in the following manner: The state executive board or
20 committees of the veterans' organizations in Oklahoma who have had
21 accredited representatives at the Veterans Administration Regional
22 Office in Oklahoma for at least ten (10) previous consecutive years
23 shall each submit to the Governor of Oklahoma a list of ten persons
24 qualified to serve as members of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans

1 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~. ~~Said~~ The list shall be submitted to the
2 Governor not later than one (1) month prior to the expiration of the
3 terms of office of the members of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
4 Commission. The Governor shall name four members of the ~~War~~
5 Oklahoma Veterans Commission from lists submitted by the American
6 Legion, three members of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission from
7 the lists submitted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and two members
8 of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission from lists submitted by the
9 Disabled American Veterans. Provided, that only those veterans'
10 organizations recognized to present claims before the Veterans
11 Administration, or its successor, and maintaining a headquarters
12 within the State of Oklahoma shall be eligible to submit a list of
13 names to the Governor as provided above.

14 The executive officer of each veterans' organization operating
15 within the State of Oklahoma shall on or before January 1 of each
16 year submit to the Secretary of State a copy of the annual audit of
17 the organization for the immediate preceding fiscal year of the
18 organization. Such audit shall clearly show the total paid
19 membership of the organization and shall be certified to by a
20 certified public accountant. The members of the Commission shall be
21 appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate.
22 Each organization qualifying for membership on the Oklahoma State
23 ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall submit a list of ten names to
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1 the Governor to choose from when a vacancy on the ~~War~~ Oklahoma
2 Veterans Commission occurs.

3 Before any member appointed as provided herein shall enter upon
4 ~~his~~ the member's duties as a member of the Commission he or she
5 shall take and subscribe to the oath of office as required by the
6 Constitution of this state.

7 Present members of the Commission shall continue in office until
8 the expiration of their terms and until their successors are
9 appointed and enter upon the duties of their offices. Appointments
10 shall be made for a three-year period. Any vacancy on the
11 Commission resulting from any cause shall be filled by appointment
12 by the Governor for the remainder of the term as provided in this
13 section.

14 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.5, is
15 amended to read as follows:

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

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

24

1 2. Care and maintenance charges shall be computed in a manner
2 to maximize the Veterans Administration pension and compensation
3 benefits to which the veteran is entitled and shall allow a veteran
4 to retain not less than One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per
5 month of total monthly income;

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

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

15 5. The claim of the state for such care and maintenance shall
16 constitute a valid indebtedness against any such patient or member
17 and ~~his~~ the patient's estate and shall not be barred by any statute
18 of limitations except as otherwise allowed by the Oklahoma Indigent
19 Health Care Act. At the death of the patient or member, this claim
20 shall be allowed and paid as other lawful claims against the estate.
21 Provided, no admission or detention of a patient in an Oklahoma
22 veterans center shall be limited or conditioned in any manner by the
23 lack of ability to pay of a patient or member, ~~his~~ the patient's
24 estate, or any relative of the patient or member. Any monies

1 collected by the provisions of this section shall be deposited in
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving Fund.

3 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.6, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 63.6. The ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~
6 is hereby authorized and empowered to provide workers' compensation
7 insurance for all guards, motor vehicle operators, maintenance
8 personnel, registered nurses, registered practical nurses and
9 attendants employed by the institutions included in the Oklahoma
10 State War Veterans Home Facilities.

11 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.7, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 63.7. No funds shall be expended for the employment or
14 salary of any administrative personnel not under the provisions of
15 the State Merit System of Personnel Administration, at any facility
16 under the direct supervision and jurisdiction of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma
17 Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~, unless honorably discharged
18 veterans were given priority consideration.

19 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.8, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 63.8. The ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~
22 shall have the authority to administer the affairs of the Department
23 of Veterans Affairs, and to enter into agreements with the State
24 Department of Rehabilitation Services for the vocational

1 rehabilitation of disabled veterans in the Oklahoma State Veterans
2 Centers. The Commission shall act as the funding agency for the
3 State Accrediting Agency and provide office space for the staff of
4 the agency. The State Accrediting Agency shall pay to the
5 Commission their pro rata share of utilities and telephone service.

6 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.10, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 63.10. A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
9 is hereby authorized to establish within said Department or within
10 any of the institutions operated by the Department training programs
11 to train necessary personnel for the Department or its institutions,
12 or may arrange for ~~said~~ programs with any public school or
13 institution within this state having available facilities for ~~said~~
14 training. Funds of the Department or its institutions may be used to
15 pay salaries or tuition and subsistence for employees or prospective
16 employees in said training programs, pursuant to the provisions of
17 subsection B of this section.

18 B. Any employee or prospective employee who, while receiving
19 such training is paid a salary, or for whom tuition and subsistence
20 are furnished shall enter into a contract with the Department prior
21 to receiving any payment for salary, tuition, or subsistence. ~~Said~~
22 The contract shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations
23 promulgated by the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~ and
24 shall include a stipulation that, unless the employee or prospective

1 employee continues in the employ of the Department for a period
2 equivalent to the length of the training, ~~said~~ the employee or
3 prospective employee shall reimburse the Department or institution
4 for the amount of money paid to or for him or her by the Department
5 during ~~said~~ the training period.

6 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.11, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 63.11. A. The ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of~~
9 ~~Oklahoma~~ shall furnish an Oklahoma state flag to drape the casket of
10 each Oklahoma National Guard member or Oklahoma peace officer, as
11 defined in Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes, who
12 dies in the line of duty, unless ~~said~~ the member or officer is
13 otherwise entitled to a United States flag. ~~Said~~ The state flag
14 shall be a service benefit of each Oklahoma National Guard member
15 and Oklahoma peace officer.

16 B. After burial of the deceased Oklahoma National Guard member
17 or Oklahoma peace officer, the flag so furnished shall be given to
18 his or her next of kin. If no claim is made by the next of kin, the
19 flag may be given to a close friend or associate of the deceased
20 upon request by such friend or associate to the ~~War~~ Oklahoma
21 Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~. If the flag is given to a close
22 friend or associate of the deceased, no flag shall be given to any
23 other person on account of the death of the Oklahoma National Guard
24 member or Oklahoma peace officer.

1 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.12, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 63.12. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs,
4 acting by and through the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission, shall be
5 authorized to enter into lease and/or loan agreements with local
6 public trusts operating in and around any proposed facilities of the
7 Department for the purpose of obtaining financing for the
8 acquisition, construction, additions to or improvement of hospital
9 or health care facilities operated by the Department whether
10 existing or to be acquired.

11 SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.13, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 63.13. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs,
14 acting by and through the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission, in
15 conjunction with the local public trust may:

- 16 1. Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary
17 or incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of
18 its powers pursuant to the provisions of this act, and particularly
19 without limiting the generality of this section, to make and enter
20 into contracts and agreements with the separate instrumentalities,
21 departments and agencies of the State of Oklahoma and/or federal
22 government, in order to effectuate the financing of the hospital and
23 health care facilities;

24

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

1 2. Employ legal counsel, and contract for investment and
2 trustee banking services, and credit support or enhancements, as may
3 be necessary in the judgment of the local public trust, and to fix
4 the fees, charges and compensation therefor; provided, that all such
5 fees and expenses shall be payable solely from the proceeds of the
6 bonds, or any investment earnings thereon, issued pursuant to the
7 provisions of this and/or any other legally available source;

8 3. Do all things necessary or convenient to implement the
9 powers expressly granted pursuant to the provisions of this act.

10 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.14, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 63.14. The bonds issued by the local public trust,
13 working in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs,
14 acting by and through the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission, shall be
15 payable from the following:

16 1. Fees, charges and payments, including any federal subsidies,
17 grants or contributions, received in respect to providing health
18 care to veteran patients at such facilities acquired, constructed
19 and equipped with the proceeds of said bonds;

20 2. Appropriations made in any fiscal year to the Department of
21 Veterans Affairs for defraying costs associated with said
22 facilities; and

23 3. Any other legally available source.
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1 SECTION 12. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.15, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 63.15. The Department of Veterans Affairs, acting by
4 and through the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission, is directed to
5 cooperate with local public trusts, either existing or to be formed,
6 and to enter into all requisite agreements and contracts in order to
7 issue bonds for the purposes prescribed herein.

8 SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.16, as
9 amended by Section 647, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (72 O.S. Supp.
10 2013, Section 63.16), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 63.16. A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
12 shall not, either in conjunction with the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
13 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~ or any other state agency, board or
14 commission or in conjunction with any public trust, issue or cause
15 to be issued by a public trust any bond or other evidence of
16 indebtedness after July 1, 2008.

17 B. Except as required for purposes of refinancing or refunding
18 an existing issue of indebtedness, from and after July 1, 2008,
19 neither the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs nor the ~~War~~
20 Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~ shall be authorized to
21 enter into agreements with public trusts in connection with an
22 issuance of evidence of indebtedness by such public trusts.

23 C. No provision of this section shall affect the obligations
24 incurred or agreements entered into by the Oklahoma Department of

1 Veterans Affairs or the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~
2 with any public trust if such obligations were incurred or
3 agreements were entered into or are year to year continuations of
4 agreements or leases entered into prior to June 25, 1986. No
5 provision of this section shall be construed as a limitation on the
6 authority of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs or the ~~War~~
7 Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~ to enter into other
8 agreements not prohibited by this section.

9 D. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a trust fund
10 for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated the
11 "Department of Veterans Affairs Trust Fund". The fund shall be a
12 continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall
13 consist of all monies authorized for expenditure as provided by this
14 section. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are hereby
15 appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma
16 Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of retiring
17 indebtedness evidenced by bonds, whether such bonds are part of an
18 original issue or part of a refunding issue, in the manner
19 prescribed by this section. Expenditures from said fund shall be
20 made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims
21 filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of
22 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

23 E. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall make
24 deposits into the Department of Veterans Affairs Trust Fund

1 established by this section from the Department of Veterans Affairs
2 Revolving Fund, and from such other monies as may be lawfully
3 expended for the purposes specified by this section.

4 F. For all fiscal years in which an outstanding balance of
5 bonded indebtedness exists which the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
6 Affairs has caused to be issued through agreements with public
7 trusts, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall at or
8 prior to the end of each fiscal year quarter make money deposits in
9 the Department of Veterans Affairs Trust Fund in amounts sufficient
10 to meet three (3) months' debt service on any public trust bonded
11 indebtedness which the Department has caused to be issued. The
12 Department of Veterans Affairs Trust Fund deposits required by this
13 subsection shall be from any funds available to the Oklahoma
14 Department of Veterans Affairs which may be legally expended for the
15 purposes specified by this section. However, a minimum of an amount
16 equal to one percent (1%) of the Department of Veterans Affairs
17 Budget Work Program for the applicable fiscal year must be
18 transferred from the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
19 Revolving Fund and included in the total deposits required in each
20 fiscal year.

21 G. Payments from the fund established pursuant to subsection D
22 of this section shall be made by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
23 Affairs only upon the authorization of the Director of the Office of
24

1 Management and Enterprise Services and the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
2 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~.

3 H. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is hereby
4 authorized to deposit in the fund created in subsection D of this
5 section all federal grant monies which it receives in conjunction
6 with projects which it has caused to be financed through revenue
7 bonds issued by public trusts.

8 SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.17, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 63.17. Except as otherwise provided by Section 63.16 of
11 this title, unless the Department of Veterans Affairs Trust Fund
12 contains the minimum amount required by Section 63.1 et seq. of this
13 title, the Department of Veterans Affairs, whether acting through
14 the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission or any other entity, shall not
15 be authorized to expend any appropriated monies or monies in any
16 revolving fund for any capital project, unless such capital project:

17 1. Has been undertaken as of June 25, 1986, or unless the
18 project is included in the approved fiscal year 1986 Budget Work
19 Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs;

20 2. Is required for repairs of an emergency nature; or

21 3. Is required to proceed with the development of a new
22 Oklahoma Veterans Center facility at Lawton, Oklahoma, pursuant to
23 Section ~~±~~ 221.2A of this ~~act~~ title.

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1 SECTION 15. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.20, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 63.20. All proceeds derived from the use, sale or lease
4 of properties under the control of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
5 Commission shall be deposited in the Capital Improvement Program
6 Revolving Fund created by Section 63.19 of this title to be expended
7 according to law.

8 SECTION 16. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.21, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Section 63.21. The ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~
11 is authorized to provide meals to certified volunteers for services
12 rendered in all facilities operated under the control of the ~~War~~
13 Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~.

14 SECTION 17. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 65.1, as
15 amended by Section 649, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (72 O.S. Supp.
16 2013, Section 65.1), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 65.1. A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
18 shall be required to proceed with construction projects at veterans
19 centers under the control of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of~~
20 ~~Oklahoma~~ from funds designated for these purposes.

21 B. Projects shall be constructed in the order designated by
22 United States Department of Veterans Affairs priorities.

23 C. Federal matching funds received for these projects shall
24 continue to be deposited in the federal matching fund designated for

1 the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs by the Director of the
2 Office of Management and Enterprise Services and shall be considered
3 as available funds for projects, unless otherwise encumbered.

4 SECTION 18. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 67.13, as
5 amended by Section 650, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (72 O.S. Supp.
6 2013, Section 67.13), is amended to read as follows:

7 Section 67.13. The ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~
8 shall have authority to make expenditures or loans from the W.V.C.
9 Revolving Fund for emergency financial aid in the maintenance or
10 support of honorably discharged war veterans or their spouses or
11 surviving spouses who have been legal residents of this state for a
12 period of one (1) year next preceding application for these
13 benefits. Payments may be made from this fund by the ~~War~~ Oklahoma
14 Veterans Commission upon warrants drawn by the State Treasurer on
15 claims approved by the Director of the Oklahoma Department of
16 Veterans Affairs pursuant to the guidelines of the Office of
17 Management and Enterprise Services. At the time of approval of
18 claims, the Director shall certify that such payments meet criteria
19 established by regulations promulgated by the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
20 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~.

21 SECTION 19. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 67.14, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 67.14. There is hereby created a "Petty Cash Fund" for
24 the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission. The balance in ~~said~~ the fund

1 shall never exceed the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
2 (\$2,500.00) which may be expended for the purposes set forth in
3 Section 67.13 of this title, when the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
4 Commission shall determine that the situation of the applicant is so
5 urgent as to require immediate financial aid. Provided that ~~said~~
6 the "Petty Cash Fund" may be reimbursed by the State Treasurer upon
7 the filing of the claim assigned to the "W.V.C. Petty Cash Fund",
8 for the amount disbursed. The reimbursement shall be made from the
9 "W.V.C. Revolving Fund". Further provided that if the emergency
10 assistance allowed by this section be made in the form of a loan to
11 the applicant, the applicant's repayment of the loan shall be
12 remitted to the State Treasurer for deposit to the credit of the
13 W.V.C. Revolving Fund in the State Treasury.

14 SECTION 20. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 203, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 203. All real estate, buildings, furniture, equipment,
17 livestock and other property that have been or that are now owned or
18 held by the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Confederate Home or by
19 the Southern Oklahoma Hospital, or by the Board of Regents of the
20 University of Oklahoma for the Southern Oklahoma Hospital, are
21 hereby transferred to and placed under the management and control of
22 the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~ for the use of the
23 Oklahoma Veterans Home; and the Board of Regents of the University
24 of Oklahoma shall, not later than ten (10) days after this act

1 becomes effective, deliver a complete inventory of all such property
2 to the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~ which shall,
3 upon verification of such inventory by an actual inspection of the
4 property listed therein, acknowledge receipt and delivery of such
5 property.

6 SECTION 21. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 221, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 221. There is hereby established at Sulphur, Oklahoma,
9 on the site of the Oklahoma State Veterans Hospital, and at Ardmore,
10 Oklahoma, on the site of the Oklahoma State Veterans Home
11 Facilities, and at Norman, Oklahoma, on the site of the Veterans
12 Ward of the Griffin Memorial Hospital, further described as follows:

13 Starting at the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter (NE
14 1/4) of Section twenty-nine (29), Township nine (9) North, Range
15 two (2) West, of the Indian Meridian; thence North seventeen
16 hundred (1700) feet to a point on the East boundary of Section
17 twenty-nine (29), Township nine (9) North, Range two (2) West;
18 thence West six hundred (600) feet; thence South eight hundred
19 fifty (850) feet; thence West three hundred twenty-five (325)
20 feet; thence South four hundred (400) feet; thence in a
21 Southwest direction five hundred forty (540) feet to a point on
22 the South boundary of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Section
23 twenty-nine (29), Township nine (9) North, Range two (2) West of
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1 the Indian Meridian; thence East a distance of one thousand two
2 hundred twenty-three (1,223) feet to the point of beginning;
3 facilities to be known as the Oklahoma Veterans Centers (for the
4 purpose of securing special treatment or hospitalization the
5 adjoining facilities of Griffin Memorial Hospital shall be
6 considered an integral part of the Oklahoma Veterans Centers at
7 Norman, and may be utilized to care for eligible veterans), which
8 shall be available for care of war veterans discharged other than
9 under dishonorable conditions. Further provided such centers shall
10 be under the administration and control of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
11 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~.

12 SECTION 22. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 222, as
13 amended by Section 653, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (72 O.S. Supp.
14 2013, Section 222), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 222. A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury
16 a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to
17 be known as the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving
18 Fund. The revolving fund shall consist of all funds and monies
19 received by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, its
20 constituent institutions, and/or, the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
21 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~, from any gifts, contributions, bequests,
22 individual reimbursements except as otherwise provided by law, and
23 other sources of revenue, for the care or support of war veterans
24 discharged other than under dishonorable conditions, who have been

1 admitted and cared for at the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
2 Affairs Centers, at Ardmore, Claremore, Clinton, Lawton/Ft. Sill,
3 Norman, Sulphur or Talihina. Provided no grants-in-aid,
4 reimbursements, or other revenue from the United States government
5 or any instrumentality of the United States government shall be
6 deposited in the fund. Provided further, nothing contained herein
7 prohibits the establishment and utilization of special agency
8 accounts by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and its
9 constituent institutions, as may be approved by the Special Agency
10 Account Board, for receipt and disbursement of the personal funds of
11 Veteran Center patients and members and/or for receipt and
12 disbursement of charitable contributions and donations for use by
13 and for patients and members.

14 B. The revolving fund herein created shall be used by the
15 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for the care of war
16 veterans discharged other than under dishonorable conditions, in
17 Veterans Centers, to pay the general operating expenses of the
18 Veterans Centers, including the payment of salaries and wages of
19 officials and employees, to pay for the employee safety programs and
20 incentive awards provided for in Section 63.10a of this title, and
21 to remodel, repair, construct, build additions, modernize, or add
22 improvements of domiciliary or hospital buildings necessary for the
23 care of veterans, including tuberculosis, mentally ill or
24 neuropsychiatric patients, but not excluding others; and

1 architectural plans, specifications, or other costs pertinent
2 thereto.

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

6 D. All expenditures from ~~said~~ the revolving fund shall be made
7 upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer based upon claims
8 approved by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, as provided
9 by law, and filed with the Director of the Office of Management and
10 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

11 SECTION 23. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 223, as
12 amended by Section 654, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (72 O.S. Supp.
13 2013, Section 223), is amended to read as follows:

14 Section 223. A. The State of Oklahoma accepts the provisions
15 of the Act of Congress of August 27, 1888, as amended, 1934 Edition
16 U.S. Code, Title 24, Section 134, and of any other federal law or
17 Act of Congress providing for the payment of funds to states for the
18 care of, or support of, disabled soldiers and sailors in state
19 homes, and it shall be the duty of the ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans
20 Commission ~~of Oklahoma~~ to obtain such federal aid and assistance as
21 is available under the aforementioned Act of Congress, or otherwise.
22 All such funds received from the United States or any federal
23 agency, for such care, shall be deposited in a federal fund created
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1 by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services as provided by
2 law.

3 B. All Oklahoma veterans nursing facilities shall participate
4 in the state veterans homes per diem grant program administered by
5 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Upon approval by
6 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of a nursing
7 facility to participate in the per diem program, the Oklahoma War
8 Veterans Commission shall issue a license to operate such facility
9 as an Oklahoma veterans home.

10 SECTION 24. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 225, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 225. The ~~War~~ Oklahoma Veterans Commission ~~of Oklahoma,~~
13 in addition to its other powers and duties as herein provided, shall
14 have the following specific powers and duties which shall, however,
15 not be deemed to be exclusive: (a) To make necessary rules and
16 regulations not inconsistent with ~~this act~~ Section 221 et seq. of
17 this title for the operation of ~~said~~ the institutions. (b) To rule
18 upon eligibility of applicant and requirements for admission to the
19 institution. (c) To appoint all administrative personnel and
20 provide for the employment of all such other personnel as may be
21 necessary to carry out the provisions of ~~this act~~ Section 221 et
22 seq. of this title and any other duties as may be prescribed by law.
23 The salaries and tenure of office of all personnel shall be
24 determined by the Commission. (d) To approve or disapprove all

1 claims or expenditures from such appropriations as may be made to
2 the Commission prior to the payment thereof, except as may be
3 otherwise provided by law. (e) To enter into agreement or contract
4 with the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, or
5 other departments of the State of Oklahoma, to provide necessary
6 services to carry out the provisions of ~~this act~~ Section 221 et seq.
7 of this title. (f) To enter into agreement or contract with the
8 Veterans Administration, or other appropriate federal agency now in
9 existence or hereafter created, to provide necessary services to
10 carry out the provisions of this act; including but not limited to,
11 agreements by which the federal government contributes funds for the
12 construction of buildings in whole or in part. (g) To contract, as
13 herein provided or as otherwise provided by law, to remodel,
14 construct, repair, build additions, modernize or add improvements
15 necessary for hospitalization and domiciliary care of veteran
16 patients, members, or employee housing, using funds available by
17 law. (h) To expend necessary sums from funds provided by law, to
18 provide architectural plans, specifications, costs or other
19 information required by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, or
20 other appropriate federal agency, as basis of application for
21 approval to receive federal grant of funds to remodel, repair,
22 construct, build additions, modernize, or added improvements of
23 domiciliary or hospital buildings necessary for the care of

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1 veterans, including tuberculosis, mentally ill, and neuro-
2 psychiatric, but not excluding others.

3 SECTION 25. AMENDATORY 74 O.S. 2011, Section 77d, as
4 amended by Section 727, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (74 O.S. Supp.
5 2013, Section 77d), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 77d. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services
7 is hereby authorized and directed to assign the building located at
8 2311 North Central, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, formerly occupied by
9 the Materials and Testing Laboratory of the Department of
10 Transportation, to the Oklahoma ~~War~~ Veterans Commission. ~~Said~~ The
11 Commission shall assign any space not used as office space for its
12 staff and employees to national and state-chartered veterans
13 organizations or their auxiliaries.

14 SECTION 26. This act shall become effective November 1, 2014.

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16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS,
17 dated 04/03/2014 - DO PASS.

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