

1 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1735 of Title 74, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

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

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

24

1 2. An employee of the Department who participates in the
2 education and training program outlined in this act shall execute a
3 promissory note for expenses payable to the Department whereby the
4 employee promises to repay the note by remaining in employment with
5 the Department. The duration of the loan repayment will correspond
6 with the program in which the employee participated as set forth in
7 rules promulgated for the implementation of this act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
18 04/01/2013 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

19

20

21

22

23

24