

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 366

By: Jolley of the Senate

and

Enns of the House

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6 An Act relating to Soldiers and Sailors; creating
7 the Oklahoma Veteran Housing Program Act; providing
8 short title; creating the Oklahoma Veteran Housing
9 Program Revolving Fund and providing for contents and
10 purpose of, and expenditures from, such fund;
11 requiring the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
12 to create a grant program; limiting the amount of the
13 grant; providing eligibility requirements for grant
14 program; limiting amount of payment; directing
15 disbursement when certain conditions are met;
16 restricting the number of grants a veteran can
17 receive; directing grant to be paid from certain fund
18 under certain conditions; allowing veteran to apply
19 for grant after the veteran exhausts federal grant;
20 providing for codification; providing an effective
21 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

23 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 410 of Title 72, unless there is
25 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

26 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
27 Veteran Housing Program Act".

28 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
29 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 411 of Title 72, unless there is
30 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
2 for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated the
3 "Oklahoma Veteran Housing Program Revolving Fund". The fund shall
4 be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and
5 shall consist of all monies received by the Oklahoma Department of
6 Veterans Affairs in the form of donations, appropriations or other
7 monies for such fund. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund
8 are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the
9 Department for the purpose of providing grants to eligible veterans
10 as provided by law. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon
11 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as
12 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and
13 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 412 of Title 63, unless there is
16 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma
18 Department of Veterans Affairs shall develop a special housing grant
19 program, not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per
20 veteran, for the purpose of bearing the costs not borne by the
21 federal government for a specifically designed home for disabled
22 veterans. To qualify for a special housing grant, all of the
23 following shall be met:
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1 1. The veteran shall be approved for the federal grant under
2 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Specially Adapted
3 Housing program;

4 2. The veteran shall have been a resident of the state before
5 entering active service with the armed forces;

6 3. The veteran shall be physically residing in the state at the
7 time the federal grant is approved, as well as at the time the
8 application for the grant and receipt of the state grant are made;

9 4. The veteran's home shall be used for the purpose of
10 establishing permanent, and not temporary, residency in the state;

11 5. The home the veteran is remodeling or purchasing shall be in
12 the state;

13 6. The veteran shall formally apply for the grant by completing
14 the form designated by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs;

15 7. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall verify
16 statements to establish that the veteran meets the eligibility
17 requirements for the grant; and

18 8. The application shall be approved by the Director of the
19 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

20 B. In no event shall the state pay a qualified veteran a share
21 greater than the federal government toward the purchase or
22 remodeling of such home.

23 C. The state grant shall be disbursed to the veteran in the
24 care of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regional

1 office to be placed in escrow. This disbursement shall be made only
2 when the federal grant has been approved and the United States
3 Department of Veterans Affairs is ready to complete the escrow
4 agreement and authorize the construction, purchase or remodeling of
5 the specially designed home for the disabled veteran.

6 D. The special housing grant shall be made to a veteran only
7 once.

8 E. Each awarded special housing grant shall be paid from the
9 Oklahoma Veteran Housing Program Revolving Fund to the extent funds
10 are available.

11 F. The veteran may also apply for the special housing grant if
12 he or she has previously exhausted his or her United States
13 Department of Veterans Affairs' Specially Adopted Housing program
14 benefits.

15 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

16 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
17 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
18 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
19 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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