SENATE FLOOR VERSION
February 11, 2015

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 366 By: Jolley of the Senate

and

Enns of the House

[Soldiers and Sailors - Oklahoma Veteran Housing Program Act - Oklahoma Veteran Housing Program Revolving Fund - grant program - number of grants - codification - ~~effective date~~ - ~~emergency~~]

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 410 of Title 72, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

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

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated the

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

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

A. Subject to the availability of funds, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall develop a special housing grant program, not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) per veteran, for the purpose of bearing the costs not borne by the federal government for a specifically designed home for disabled veterans. To qualify for a special housing grant, all of the following shall be met:

1. The veteran shall be approved for the federal grant under the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Specially Adapted Housing program;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. The state grant shall be disbursed to the veteran in the care of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regional office to be placed in escrow. This disbursement shall be made only when the federal grant has been approved and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is ready to complete the escrow

agreement and authorize the construction, purchase or remodeling of the specially designed home for the disabled veteran.

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

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
February 11, 2015 - DO PASS AS AMENDED