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February 20, 2013

AS AMENDED

SENATE BILL NO. 228

By: Simpson and Ivester of the
Senate

and

Hardin of the House

[education and training programs - Quality Workforce
for Oklahoma's Heroes Act - codification - effective
date]

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:

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

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

Beginning November 1, 2013, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to establish education and training programs for positions critical to the quality care of veterans residing within Department institutions. The Department may contract with

1 accredited institutions necessary to provide this education and
2 training. Funds of the Department or its institutions may be used
3 to pay salaries or tuition and subsistence for employees in these
4 training programs, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this
5 section. Employees may be in work status while engaging in training
6 and education programs provided for in this section.

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

12 2. An employee of the Department who participates in the
13 education and training program outlined in this act shall execute a
14 promissory note for expenses payable to the Department whereby the
15 employee promises to repay the note by remaining in employment with
16 the Department. The duration of the loan repayment will correspond
17 with the program in which the employee participated as set forth in
18 rules promulgated for the implementation of this act.

19 a. The amount due pursuant to this act shall be reduced
20 at a rate of Thirteen Dollars (\$13.00) per calendar
21 day beginning the first day after graduation from the
22 education or training program. If for any reason the
23 employee leaves the employment of the department, the
24 obligation will be considered due.

1 b. Violation of the provisions of the terms of the
2 promissory note for training expenses entered into
3 pursuant to this section shall give rise to a cause of
4 action and suit may be commenced by the Department for
5 and on behalf of the State of Oklahoma for restitution
6 of any and all sums plus interest at the statutory
7 rate, costs, and reasonable attorney fees. The
8 provisions of this section shall not apply to persons
9 who volunteer or are drafted into active military
10 service subsequent to receiving training at state
11 expense.

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

15 The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs may pay fees for
16 employees to maintain licenses and certification required to provide
17 quality care and maintain accreditation at Department institutions.
18 The Department may require repayment of such fees pursuant to
19 paragraph 2 of Section 2 of this act.

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

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

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

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
6 February 20, 2013 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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