

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 SENATE BILL 228

By: Simpson

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to education and training programs;
8 creating the Quality Workforce for Oklahoma's Heroes
9 Act; providing short title; authorizing the Oklahoma
10 Department of Veterans Affairs to establish programs;
11 authorizing certain contracts; providing for funding
12 of programs; clarifying employee status; establishing
13 criteria for participation in program; authorizing
14 tuition reimbursement for successful candidates;
15 outlining procedures for promissory note;
16 establishing penalties; authorizing payment of
17 certain fees; directing promulgation of rules;
18 providing for codification; and providing effective
19 date.

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

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

24 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:

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

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

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

23 a. The amount due pursuant to this act shall be reduced
24 at a rate of Thirteen Dollars (\$13.00) per calendar

1 day beginning the first day after graduation from the
2 education or training program. If for any reason the
3 employee leaves the employment of the department, the
4 obligation will be considered due.

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

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

19 The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs may pay fees for
20 employees to maintain licenses and certification required to provide
21 quality care and maintain accreditation at Department institutions.
22 The Department may require repayment of such fees pursuant to
23 paragraph 2 of Section 2 of this act.
24

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

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

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

54-1-854 LG 1/10/2013 10:18:57 AM