

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 232

By: Simpson of the Senate

3 and

4 Hardin of the House

5
6 An Act relating to soldiers and sailors;
7 consolidating the State Accrediting Agency and the
8 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; providing
9 for interpretation of certain statutory references;
10 transferring the duties and administration of certain
11 laws to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs;
12 transferring certain personnel, funds, records,
13 encumbrances, equipment and other items; providing
14 requirements pertaining to the transfer of employees;
15 providing for transition coordinator and a transition
16 team; providing duties of the transition coordinator
17 and transition team; amending 72 O.S. 2011, Section
18 63.8, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 212, O.S.L.
19 2014 (72 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 63.8), which
20 relates to agreements for vocational rehabilitation
21 of disabled veterans; repealing 72 O.S. 2011,
22 Sections 241, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 297,
23 O.S.L. 2013 and 242 (72 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section
24 241), which relate to the creation of the State
Accrediting Agency; providing for codification;
providing for noncodification; providing an effective
date; and declaring an emergency.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 241-A of Title 72, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. The State Accrediting Agency is hereby consolidated with the
24 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Any reference in Oklahoma

1 Statutes or in Article XXVIII of the Oklahoma Constitution to the
2 State Accrediting Agency shall be deemed to be a reference to the
3 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs unless otherwise required by
4 the context of the reference.

5 B. All assets, funds, liabilities, allotments, purchase orders,
6 outstanding financial obligations, encumbrances, records, equipment
7 and other property of the State Accrediting Agency are hereby
8 transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

9 C. Personnel employed by the State Accrediting Agency on July
10 1, 2017, shall be transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
11 Affairs.

12 D. The classified and unclassified employees who are
13 transferred pursuant to this section shall be subject to the
14 following provisions:

15 1. Classified employees shall remain subject to the provisions
16 of the Merit System of Personnel Administration, as provided in the
17 Oklahoma Personnel Act;

18 2. Unclassified employees transferred to the Oklahoma
19 Department of Veterans Affairs shall remain in the unclassified
20 service and shall serve at the pleasure of the Director of the
21 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs;

22 3. All employees who are transferred pursuant to this act shall
23 retain leave, sick and annual time earned and any retirement and
24 longevity benefits which have accrued during their employment with

1 the state. The salaries of employees who are transferred shall not
2 be reduced as a direct and immediate result of the transfer; and

3 4. If the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs should
4 implement a reduction in force, all employees transferred pursuant
5 to this act shall be credited for the time they were employed by the
6 State Accrediting Agency.

7 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
8 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

9 The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
10 shall serve as transition coordinator and shall establish a
11 transition team to coordinate the orderly transfer of duties,
12 personnel, property, funds and encumbrances from and consolidation
13 of the State Accrediting Agency to the Oklahoma Department of
14 Veterans Affairs.

15 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.8, as
16 amended by Section 6, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp. 2016,
17 Section 63.8), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 63.8. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall have the
19 authority to administer the affairs of the Department of Veterans
20 Affairs, and to enter into agreements with the State Department of
21 Rehabilitation Services for the vocational rehabilitation of
22 disabled veterans in the Oklahoma State Veterans Centers. ~~The~~
23 ~~Commission shall act as the funding agency for the State Accrediting~~
24 ~~Agency and provide office space for the staff of the agency. The~~

1 ~~State Accrediting Agency shall pay to the Commission their pro rata~~
2 ~~share of utilities and telephone service.~~

3 SECTION 4. REPEALER 72 O.S. 2011, Sections 241, as
4 amended by Section 1, Chapter 297, O.S.L. 2013 (72 O.S. Supp. 2016,
5 Section 241) and 242 are hereby repealed.

6 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2017.

7 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
8 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

11 Passed the Senate the 21st day of March, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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15 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
16 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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