

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 57

By: Boggs of the Senate

3 and

4 Kannady of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to veterans; amending 72 O.S. 2011,  
7 Section 63.5, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 212,  
8 O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 63.5), which  
9 relates to the collection of payments from eligible  
patients and members for care and maintenance;  
updating language; clarifying certain admission  
standards; and providing an effective date.

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

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.5, as  
13 amended by Section 3, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp. 2016,  
14 Section 63.5), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 63.5. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission is hereby  
16 authorized to make collections from eligible patients and members  
17 for care and maintenance. Payments shall be established in the  
18 following manner:

19 1. All sources of personal income, except wages of a working  
20 spouse, except as provided in this section, shall be considered when  
21 computing care and maintenance charges, including pensions and  
22 awards for aid and attendance from the Veterans Administration;  
23 2. Care and maintenance charges shall be computed in a manner  
24 to maximize the Veterans Administration pension and compensation

1 benefits to which the veteran is entitled and shall allow a veteran  
2 to retain not less than One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per  
3 month of total monthly income;

4 3. The care and maintenance charge shall not exceed the full  
5 cost of care minus the Veterans Administration per diem payment;

6 4. Spouses, widows and widowers of eligible war veterans are  
7 authorized to be admitted and maintained in the Oklahoma veterans  
8 centers. The facilities admitting and maintaining spouses, widows  
9 and widowers shall make collections from ~~said~~ the spouses, widows  
10 and widowers first and to the fullest extent from sources of income  
11 other than pension and compensation paid by the Veterans  
12 Administration; and

13 5. The claim of the state for such care and maintenance shall  
14 constitute a valid indebtedness against any such patient or member  
15 and the patient's estate and shall not be barred by any statute of  
16 limitations except as otherwise allowed by the Oklahoma Indigent  
17 Health Care Act. At the death of the patient or member, this claim  
18 shall be allowed and paid as other lawful claims against the estate.  
19 Provided, no admission of a veteran of a period of war, as  
20 referenced in 38 U.S.C., Section 1521 or detention of a patient in  
21 an Oklahoma veterans center shall be limited or conditioned in any  
22 manner by the lack of ability to pay of a patient or member, the  
23 patient's estate, or any relative of the patient or member. Any  
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1 monies collected by the provisions of this section shall be  
2 deposited in the Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving Fund.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

4 Passed the Senate the 14th day of March, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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8 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
9 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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