

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 57

By: Boggs of the Senate

and

Kannady of the House

An Act relating to veterans; amending 72 O.S. 2011, Section 63.5, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2014 (72 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 63.5), which 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.

SUBJECT: Veterans

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

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

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

1. All sources of personal income, except wages of a working spouse, except as provided in this section, shall be considered when computing care and maintenance charges, including pensions and awards for aid and attendance from the Veterans Administration;

2. Care and maintenance charges shall be computed in a manner to maximize the Veterans Administration pension and compensation benefits to which the veteran is entitled and shall allow a veteran

to retain not less than One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per month of total monthly income;

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

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

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

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

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

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 24th day of April, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____