

1 C. Personnel employed by the State Accrediting Agency on July
2 1, 2017, shall be transferred to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
3 Affairs.

4 D. The classified and unclassified employees who are
5 transferred pursuant to this section shall be subject to the
6 following provisions:

7 1. Classified employees shall remain subject to the provisions
8 of the Merit System of Personnel Administration, as provided in the
9 Oklahoma Personnel Act;

10 2. Unclassified employees transferred to the Oklahoma
11 Department of Veterans Affairs shall remain in the unclassified
12 service and shall serve at the pleasure of the Director of the
13 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs;

14 3. All employees who are transferred pursuant to this act shall
15 retain leave, sick and annual time earned and any retirement and
16 longevity benefits which have accrued during their employment with
17 the state. The salaries of employees who are transferred shall not
18 be reduced as a direct and immediate result of the transfer; and

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

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

1 The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
2 shall serve as transition coordinator and shall establish a
3 transition team to coordinate the orderly transfer of duties,
4 personnel, property, funds and encumbrances from and consolidation
5 of the State Accrediting Agency to the Oklahoma Department of
6 Veterans Affairs.

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

10 Section 63.8. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall have the
11 authority to administer the affairs of the Department of Veterans
12 Affairs, and to enter into agreements with the State Department of
13 Rehabilitation Services for the vocational rehabilitation of
14 disabled veterans in the Oklahoma State Veterans Centers. ~~The~~
15 ~~Commission shall act as the funding agency for the State Accrediting~~
16 ~~Agency and provide office space for the staff of the agency. The~~
17 ~~State Accrediting Agency shall pay to the Commission their pro rata~~
18 ~~share of utilities and telephone service.~~

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

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

23 ~~SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation~~
24 ~~of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby~~

~~declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
be in full force from and after its passage and approval.~~

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
February 8, 2017 - DO PASS AS AMENDED