

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 615

By: Pugh of the Senate

and

Ford of the House

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9 An Act relating to state government; authorizing
10 certain agencies to establish education and training
11 programs; authorizing certain contracts; providing
12 for funding of programs; establishing criteria for
13 participation in program; authorizing tuition
14 reimbursement for successful candidates; outlining
15 procedures for promissory note; establishing
16 penalties; authorizing payment of certain fees;
17 directing promulgation of rules; providing for
18 codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 846 of Title 74, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Beginning November 1, 2019, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol
Division of the Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma State
Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma Department of Corrections
are authorized to establish a program requiring a one (1) year
commitment of service from individuals who are being trained for

1 positions critical to the safety of the public. Funds of the
2 agencies may be used to pay salaries or tuition and subsistence for
3 employees in these training programs, pursuant to the provisions of
4 subsection C of this section. Employees may be in work status while
5 engaging in training and education programs provided for in this
6 section.

7 B. Employees training for positions critical to the safety of
8 the public shall be eligible to execute a promissory note for
9 training expenses payable to the agency whereby the employee
10 promises to repay the note by remaining in employment with the
11 agency for at least one (1) year. The duration of the loan
12 repayment will correspond with the program in which the employee
13 participated as set forth in rules promulgated for the
14 implementation of this section.

15 C. The amount due pursuant to this section shall be reduced at
16 a rate of Thirteen Dollars (\$13.00) per calendar day beginning the
17 first day after graduation from the education or training program.
18 If for any reason the employee leaves the employment of the
19 Department, the obligation will be considered due.

20 D. Violation of the provisions of the terms of the promissory
21 note for training expenses entered into pursuant to this section
22 shall give rise to a cause of action and suit may be commenced by
23 the agencies for and on behalf of the State of Oklahoma for
24 restitution of any and all sums plus interest at the statutory rate,

1 costs and reasonable attorney fees. The provisions of this section
2 shall not apply to persons who volunteer, who are drafted into
3 active military service subsequent to receiving training at state
4 expense or who have been terminated prior to the obligation being
5 fulfilled.

6 E. The agencies may pay fees for employees to maintain licenses
7 and certification required to provide services essential to the
8 mission of the agencies. The agencies may require repayment of such
9 fees pursuant to subsection C of this section.

10 F. The Commissioner of Public Safety, the Oklahoma State Bureau
11 of Investigation Commission and the State Board of Corrections shall
12 promulgate rules pursuant to the implementations of this section.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
16 04/11/2019 - DO PASS.

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