

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE BILL 1213

By: Dossett (J.J.)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to career and technology education; creating the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act; providing short title; providing definitions; creating the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Program to provide tuition assistance to certain eligible members; providing for amount of assistance subject to availability of funding; limiting assistance to certain number of years; providing for eligibility; providing eligibility retention requirements; providing application process; allowing denial of continued assistance for failure to meet certain requirements; requiring repayment of assistance for failure to meet certain requirement; providing for calculation of repayment amount; allowing for application of hardship waiver; directing certain notification on available funding; providing for promulgation of rules and regulations; creating the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund; specifying source of fund; providing for expenditures; providing purpose of fund; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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 14-140 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
2 National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act".

3       B. As used in this act:

4       1. "Technology center school" means a technology center school  
5 under the governance of the State Board of Career and Technology  
6 Education;

7       2. "Eligible Guard member" means an active member of the  
8 Oklahoma National Guard in good standing who has a high school  
9 diploma or who has completed General Educational Development (GED)  
10 requirements and who has secured admission to and is enrolled in a  
11 technology center school; and

12       3. "Program" means the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech  
13 Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this  
14 section.

15       C. 1. There is hereby created the Oklahoma National Guard  
16 CareerTech Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible  
17 Guard members who enroll in a technology center school. Subject to  
18 the availability of funds, the amount of assistance shall be  
19 equivalent to the amount of tuition for a career and technology  
20 program in which the member is enrolled leading to certification or  
21 licensure, not to exceed a maximum of three (3) years.

22       2. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be  
23 granted without any limitation other than the amount of funds  
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1 available for the Program and the number of eligible Guard members  
2 who apply.

3 3. Assistance allowed by this section shall not be allowed for  
4 courses taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a  
5 technology center school program leading to certification or  
6 licensure.

7 D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be  
8 allocated to the technology center school from the Oklahoma National  
9 Guard CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to  
10 Section 2 of this act.

11 E. To be eligible to apply for the Program, an eligible Guard  
12 member shall:

13 1. Have at least one (1) year remaining on his or her  
14 enlistment contract at the beginning of any semester for which the  
15 member applies for assistance pursuant to this section;

16 2. Agree in writing to complete his or her current service  
17 obligation in the Oklahoma National Guard; and

18 3. Agree in writing to serve actively in good standing with the  
19 Oklahoma National Guard for not less than twenty-four (24) months  
20 after completion of the last semester for which the member receives  
21 assistance pursuant to this section.

22 F. To retain eligibility for the Program, an eligible Guard  
23 member shall:

1        1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory progress  
2 according to standards of the technology center school in which the  
3 member is enrolled;

4        2. Maintain the requirements for retention and completion as  
5 established by the technology center school in which the member is  
6 enrolled;

7        3. Maintain a minimum grade point of average of 2.0 on a 4.0  
8 scale; and

9        4. Maintain satisfactory participation in the Oklahoma National  
10 Guard.

11        G. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to the  
12 provisions of this section shall submit an application on a form  
13 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to  
14 the Educational Service Office of the Military Department prior to  
15 the semester for which assistance is sought. The eligible Guard  
16 member's Commander or his or her designee shall confirm a member's  
17 standing and eligibility to the technology center school in which  
18 the student is enrolled.

19        H. The eligible Guard member's Commander may deny an  
20 application submitted by an eligible Guard member for continued  
21 Program assistance if he or she fails to comply with the provisions  
22 of paragraph 1, 2, or 3 of subsection F of this section.

23        I. An eligible Guard member who has received Program assistance  
24 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply  
25

1 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section  
2 shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as follows:

3 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant  
4 to the provisions of this section;

5 2. Divide the amount determined in paragraph 1 of this  
6 subsection by twenty-four (24); and

7 3. Multiply the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this  
8 subsection by the number of months the member did not fulfill the  
9 requirements of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section.

10 Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma National Guard  
11 CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2  
12 of this act.

13 J. An eligible Guard member who has received Program assistance  
14 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply  
15 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section  
16 due to hardship circumstances may request a waiver from repayment.  
17 A waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the Adjutant  
18 General.

19 K. By July 1 annually, the State Board of Career and Technology  
20 Education shall notify the Adjutant General of the amount of funding  
21 available in the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance  
22 Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this act.

23 L. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall  
24 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act including

1 deadlines for submission of applications required by subsection G of  
2 this section. The Adjutant General may promulgate regulations to  
3 implement the provisions of this act.

4 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 14-141 of Title 70, unless there  
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund  
8 for the State Board of Career and Technology Education to be  
9 designated the "Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance  
10 Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject  
11 to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received  
12 by the State Board of Career and Technology Education from state  
13 appropriations. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are  
14 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the State  
15 Board of Career and Technology Education for the purpose of  
16 providing assistance to eligible Guard members pursuant to the  
17 provisions of Section 1 of this act. Expenditures from the fund  
18 shall be made upon warrants issued by the State Treasurer against  
19 claims filed as prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of  
20 Management and Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

22 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.  
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