

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 547

By: Pugh of the Senate

3 and

4 West (Josh) of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to veterans; requiring Oklahoma  
7 Department of Veterans Affairs to represent certain  
8 interests; authorizing Department to request  
9 engagement of Attorney General upon certain  
10 determination; requiring review of certain  
11 complaints; authorizing intervention of Attorney  
12 General upon request by Department; providing for  
13 codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 63.23 of Title 72, unless there  
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall represent  
19 and protect the collective interests of military veterans in this  
20 state. The Department may request the engagement of the Attorney  
21 General on behalf of an individual veteran or a collective group of  
22 veterans upon:

23 1. Receiving a complaint of improperly withheld or revoked  
24 benefits or breaches of trust in the administration of funds by the  
United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

2. Conducting a thorough review of the complaint; and

3. Determining that the Department has exhausted its ability to intervene on behalf of the veteran or veterans.

B. Upon request from the Department pursuant to subsection A of this section, the Attorney General may, at his or her discretion, intervene on behalf of the veteran or veterans.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation 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.

Passed the Senate the 21st day of March, 2023.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2023.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives