

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1311
Version:	CS
Request No.:	3500
Author:	Sen. Pugh
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Bill Analysis

SB 1311 creates the Veterans Entering Teaching (VET) Act and the Veterans Entering Teaching (VET) Program to provide tuition and mandatory fee assistance to eligible students who have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces to earn a degree from an approved teacher preparation program at an institution of higher education within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education if they agree to teach in an Oklahoma school district for three consecutive years. The bill provides initial and retention eligibility for the program. The measure requires eligible students to execute an agreement to earn a bachelor's degree from an approved teacher preparation program, meet teacher certification requirements, and agree to teach in a school district for three consecutive years. It allows assistance to be provided to an eligible student for up to five years, subject to availability of funding. It prohibits assistance from exceeding \$5 million in any academic year, and it directs assistance to be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. It provides for repayment of assistance if an individual fails to comply with the agreement. It allows a hardship waiver to be sought by such individuals. The measure also creates the Veterans Entering Teaching (VET) Revolving Fund.

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