

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3747

By: Grego

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending 72 O.S. 2021, Section 225, which relates to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission; adding Commission powers and duties; creating alternative to State Veterans Home care under certain conditions; requiring the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for stays at private nursing facilities under certain conditions; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2021, Section 225, is amended to read as follows:

Section 225. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission, in addition to its other powers and duties as herein provided, shall have the following specific powers and duties which shall, however, not be deemed to be exclusive: (a) To make necessary rules and regulations not inconsistent with Section 221 et seq. of this title for the operation of the institutions. (b) To rule upon eligibility of applicant and requirements for admission to the institution. (c) To appoint all administrative personnel and provide for the employment of all such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the

1 provisions of Section 221 et seq. of this title and any other duties
2 as may be prescribed by law. The salaries and tenure of office of
3 all personnel shall be determined by the Commission. (d) To approve
4 or disapprove all claims or expenditures from such appropriations as
5 may be made to the Commission prior to the payment thereof, except
6 as may be otherwise provided by law. (e) To enter into agreement or
7 contract with the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
8 Services, or other departments of the State of Oklahoma, to provide
9 necessary services to carry out the provisions of Section 221 et
10 seq. of this title. (f) To enter into agreement or contract with
11 the Veterans Administration, or other appropriate federal agency now
12 in existence or hereafter created, to provide necessary services to
13 carry out the provisions of this act; including but not limited to,
14 agreements by which the federal government contributes funds for the
15 construction of buildings in whole or in part. (g) To contract, as
16 herein provided or as otherwise provided by law, to remodel,
17 construct, repair, build additions, modernize or add improvements
18 necessary for hospitalization and domiciliary care of veteran
19 patients, members, or employee housing, using funds available by
20 law. (h) To expend necessary sums from funds provided by law, to
21 provide architectural plans, specifications, costs or other
22 information required by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, or
23 other appropriate federal agency, as basis of application for
24 approval to receive federal grant of funds to remodel, repair,

1 construct, build additions, modernize, or added improvements of
2 domiciliary or hospital buildings necessary for the care of
3 veterans, including tuberculosis, mentally ill, and neuro-
4 psychiatric, but not excluding others. (i) To enter into agreements
5 or contracts with private nursing facilities to provide necessary
6 services to eligible Oklahoma Veterans who reside more than fifty
7 (50) miles from a State Veterans Home in accordance with the
8 provisions of this act.

9 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 240.1 of Title 72, unless there
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 If an eligible Oklahoma Veteran, at the time of his or her
13 application for admission to a State Veterans Home, resides more
14 than fifty (50) miles from a State Veterans Home, the Oklahoma
15 Department of Veterans Affairs shall pay for a bed at a long-term,
16 skilled nursing care facility located within fifty (50) miles of the
17 eligible Oklahoma Veteran's residence.

18 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.
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