

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
4 SENATE BILL NO. 1376

By: Hines of the Senate

5 and

6 West (Josh) of the House

7

8

9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 An Act relating to the Oklahoma National Guard;
11 amending 44 O.S. 2021, Sections 26 and 243, as
12 amended by Sections 4 and 6, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025
(44 O.S. Supp. 2025, Sections 26 and 243), which
13 relate to authority under the Adjutant General and
the Governor's authority over state militia; removing
14 certain authority; allowing certain bequests to be
defined by the Adjutant General in certain
15 situations; requiring compensation to be provided by
the Oklahoma National Guard Supplemental Retirement
16 Pay Revolving Fund; amending Section 18, Chapter 344,
O.S.L. 2025 (44 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 271), which
17 relates to the Oklahoma National Guard Supplemental
Retirement Pay Revolving Fund; providing certain
18 limitations for operability of certain fund; amending
44 O.S. 2021, Section 815, as amended by Section 7,
19 Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025 (44 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section
815), which relates to the commanding officer's
20 nonjudicial punishment authority; providing certain
time period to respond to certain intent; amending
21 Section 1, Chapter 390, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
2025, Section 14-140), which relates to the Oklahoma
22 National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act; removing
certain authority to promulgate regulations;
23 requiring certain member to exhaust certain benefits
before accessing certain funds; amending Section 21,
Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section
24 14-142.1), which relates to transfer of education
assistance to dependents; allowing certain member to

1 transfer certain entitlement; updating statutory
2 references; updating statutory language; repealing
3 Section 20, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025 (70 O.S. Supp.
4 2025, Section 14-142), which relates to education
5 assistance; providing an effective date; and
6 declaring an emergency.

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

8 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 44 O.S. 2021, Section 26, as
9 amended by Section 4, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025 (44 O.S. Supp. 2025,
10 Section 26), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 26. A. The Adjutant General shall be in control of the
12 Military Department of the State of Oklahoma, subordinate only to
13 the Governor. Within the limitations and under the provisions of
14 law, he or she shall supervise and direct the Oklahoma National
15 Guard within the service of the state and when under state control
16 in all of its organization, training and other activities; shall
17 receive and give effect to the orders of the Governor; and shall
18 perform such other military and defense duties, not otherwise
19 assigned by law, as the Governor may prescribe. ~~The Adjutant~~
20 ~~General shall have the authority to arm members of the state~~
21 ~~military forces on military installations and other places under the~~
22 ~~control of the Military Department with weaponry as the Adjutant~~
23 ~~General deems necessary to adequately provide for the security of~~
24 ~~the facilities and their occupants.~~

1 B. The Adjutant General, when absent from the state, may
2 temporarily delegate any authority vested under this title and any
3 such duties as an agency appointing authority to an Assistant
4 Adjutant General, other state officer or employee within the
5 Military Department of the State of Oklahoma. Such temporary
6 delegations of authority pursuant to this subsection shall be
7 accomplished in writing. The Adjutant General may also promulgate
8 regulations providing for the delegation of any such authority.

9 C. The Adjutant General shall develop, publish and maintain an
10 organizational chart depicting the chain of command between the
11 Adjutant General and the major commands of the Oklahoma National
12 Guard. Besides the major commands defined in Section 801 of this
13 title ~~(Article 1)~~, the Adjutant General, in his or her discretion,
14 may designate other military units within the Oklahoma National
15 Guard as major commands.

16 D. The organizational chart required in subsection C of this
17 section shall be updated no less than annually and shall include all
18 enlisted and officer billets assigned to joint ~~forces~~ force
19 headquarters and shall depict all existing command relationships
20 established by the Adjutant General within joint ~~forces~~ force
21 headquarters. The organizational chart required herein shall not be
22 considered a military publication within the meaning of Section 801
23 of this title ~~(Article 1)~~.

1 E. In accordance with all relevant requirements of the United
2 States Army, the United States Air Force or the National Guard
3 Bureau, the Adjutant General shall develop, publish and maintain an
4 enlisted and officer rating scheme for all enlisted and officer
5 billets assigned to joint ~~forces~~ force headquarters. The rating
6 scheme required herein shall not be considered a military
7 publication within the meaning of Section 801 of this title ~~(Article~~
8 ~~1).~~

9 F. Pursuant to the rules established by the Adjutant General,
10 the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma is authorized to
11 expend appropriated and nonappropriated funds to enhance recruiting
12 and retention efforts for the Oklahoma National Guard.

13 G. The Adjutant General may establish rules allowing the
14 Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to accept donations and
15 bequests to create a program for the benefit of members of the
16 Oklahoma National Guard. The Adjutant General may define the
17 purpose of any bequests as authorized by law.

18 H. The Adjutant General shall serve as the chief of all fire
19 protection units operating under the ~~Oklahoma~~ Military Department of
20 the State of Oklahoma and shall supervise and administer the fire
21 protection units in accordance with the rules and procedures
22 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma.

23 I. The Adjutant General shall serve as the chief commissioner
24 of all police units and officers appointed under the ~~Oklahoma~~

1 Military Department of the State of Oklahoma. The Adjutant General
2 may appoint police officers in accordance with Section 230 of this
3 title.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 44 O.S. 2021, Section 243, as
5 amended by Section 6, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025 (44 O.S. Supp. 2025,
6 Section 243), is amended to read as follows:

7 Section 243. A. The Governor is hereby authorized to prescribe
8 rules and regulations governing the enlistment, organization,
9 administration, equipment, discipline and discharge of the personnel
10 of such military forces; to requisition from the Secretary of
11 Defense such arms and equipment as may be in the possession of and
12 can be spared by the United States Department of Defense and to
13 extend thereto the facilities of state armories, Armed Forces
14 Reserve Centers, readiness centers, logistics, aviation, and
15 training facilities, warehouses and their equipment and such other
16 state premises and property as may be available for the purpose of
17 drill and instruction. Insofar as applicable, the procedure for the
18 enlistment, organization, pay, maintenance, equipment, and
19 discipline of such forces shall be in conformity with the law and
20 the rules and regulations governing and pertaining to the Oklahoma
21 National Guard; provided, that the officers and enlisted personnel
22 in the Oklahoma State Guard shall not receive any compensation or
23 monetary allowances from the state except when activated for state

1 active duty, as defined in Section 801 of this title, by order of
2 the Governor.

3 ~~B. Members of the Oklahoma National Guard shall be considered~~
4 ~~part of state military forces as defined in Section 801 of this~~
5 ~~title and shall be subject to the Oklahoma Uniform Code of Military~~
6 ~~Justice.~~

7 ~~C. Any full-time state employee that who serves in a military~~
8 ~~capacity shall receive compensation equaling equivalent to the~~
9 ~~compensation, benefits, entitlements, or other compensation received~~
10 ~~by a full-time active-duty service member at the same rank and time~~
11 ~~in grade in perpetuity but such compensation shall not be~~
12 ~~transferable. Compensation under this subsection shall be funded by~~
13 ~~the revolving fund established pursuant to Section 272 of Title 44~~
14 ~~of the Oklahoma Statutes or other appropriated funds.~~

15 ~~D. C. When prescribing the rules and regulations governing~~
16 ~~enlistment, organization, administration, equipment, discipline and~~
17 ~~discharge of the personnel of the Oklahoma State Guard or Oklahoma~~
18 ~~National Guard, the Governor shall issue such rules and regulations~~
19 ~~in the form of an executive order or in a series of such orders. An~~
20 ~~executive order or a series of such orders prescribing the rules and~~
21 ~~regulations governing enlistment, organization, administration,~~
22 ~~equipment, discipline and discharge of the personnel of the Oklahoma~~
23 ~~State Guard or Oklahoma National Guard shall also be published by~~
24 ~~the Adjutant General as a military publication.~~

1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 18, Chapter 344, O.S.L.

2 2025 (44 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 271), is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 Section 271. A. The provisions of this section shall not be
5 operative and no payments shall be made from the Oklahoma National
6 Guard Supplemental Retirement Pay Revolving Fund created in Section
7 ~~19~~ 272 of this ~~act~~ title until ~~November 1, 2027~~ January 1, 2027, or
8 until funds are appropriated, whichever date is earlier.

9 B. The provisions of this section shall only be applicable to a
10 member of the Oklahoma National Guard who has accrued enough service
11 credit ~~prior to the effective date of this act~~ in order to retire
12 from the system maintained by the Defense Finance and Accounting
13 Service, or its successor in interest, for the benefit of members of
14 state ~~National Guards~~ national guards, but who has not attained the
15 required age prior to ~~the effective date of this act~~ November 1,
16 2025, in order to be paid the full amount of such benefit. No
17 member of the Oklahoma National Guard shall be eligible to receive a
18 payment pursuant to the provisions of this section unless the member
19 has completed twenty-five (25) years of military service, which
20 shall include at least five (5) years in the Oklahoma National
21 Guard, and retires as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard.

22 C. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable to
23 any person who ~~retires with an active duty military pension is~~
24 receiving funds pursuant to 10 U.S.C., Section 12732.

1 D. The amount of the payment shall be determined as follows:

2 1. Determine the amount of retirement the member would receive
3 if the member had reached the age to accrue federal retirement
4 benefits based upon total points accrued;

5 2. If the members of the active duty military retirement system
6 were eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment for the year for which
7 the computation of the payment amount authorized by this section is
8 to be made, the cost-of-living adjustment amount in an annualized
9 form shall be added to the result of the computation in paragraph 1
10 of this subsection each year; and

11 3. The resulting amount shall be paid to the Oklahoma National
12 Guard member in twelve ~~(12)~~ equal monthly amounts with allowance as
13 required for rounding.

14 E. Any benefit payable to an eligible member of the Oklahoma
15 National Guard shall only be payable during the member's lifetime,
16 and no benefit authorized pursuant to the provisions of this section
17 shall be payable to a beneficiary other than amounts paid to a
18 member prior to the member's death which are payable to another
19 person pursuant to the provisions of a joint tenancy bank account
20 with a right of survivorship naming a person or persons as
21 beneficiary, a bank account with a transfer on death or payable on
22 death feature, an express trust, including, but not limited to, a
23 trust created by the payee member during his or her lifetime, a will
24 or the statute of intestate succession for distribution of the

1 assets of a person who does not otherwise provide for the
2 disposition of his or her assets after death.

3 F. The payment otherwise authorized pursuant to the provisions
4 of this ~~act~~ section may only be made to a person who has become
5 eligible to receive retirement benefits from the retirement system
6 under the supervision of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service,
7 or its successor in interest, as of the date the first payment
8 pursuant to this ~~act~~ section is authorized.

9 G. The payments authorized by this section shall be paid to the
10 eligible member until the member begins to receive federal
11 retirement benefits from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service,
12 or its successor in interest, but shall not be paid for any period
13 of time after such time period.

14 H. In the event the funds required for full payment to all
15 eligible members pursuant to the provisions of this section are not
16 sufficient, the payments to the eligible members shall be prorated
17 by dividing the total number of eligible members by the total amount
18 of available funds. The resulting quotient shall be multiplied by
19 the payment amount otherwise due to the eligible member and the
20 result of that computation shall be the reduced dollar amount paid
21 to each member for the applicable period. For any period of time
22 during which payments are prorated pursuant to this subsection, the
23 next increment of available funds shall be used to make payments to
24

1 the eligible members whose payment amounts were prorated to
2 compensate for the reduction made in the prior payment period.

3 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 44 O.S. 2021, Section 815, as
4 amended by Section 7, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025 (44 O.S. Supp. 2025,
5 Section 815), is amended to read as follows:

6 Section 815. ARTICLE 15. Commanding officer's nonjudicial
7 punishment.

8 A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, any
9 commanding officer may impose disciplinary punishments for minor
10 offenses arising under the punitive articles of the Oklahoma Uniform
11 Code of Military Justice without the intervention of a court-
12 martial.

13 B. Any commanding officer may limit or withhold the exercise of
14 nonjudicial punishment authority by subordinate commanders,
15 including limiting authority over certain categories of military
16 personnel or offenses. Likewise, individual cases may be reserved
17 by a superior commander. A superior authority may limit or withhold
18 any power that a subordinate might otherwise exercise under this
19 section.

20 C. Except as provided in subsection L of this section, the
21 Governor or Adjutant General may delegate the powers established
22 under this section to a commanding officer who is a member of the
23 state military forces and is also a member of the same force
24 component as the accused.

1 D. Except as provided in subsection S of this section, any
2 commanding officer may impose upon enlisted members of the officer's
3 command:

4 1. An admonition;

5 2. A reprimand;

6 3. The withholding of privileges for not more than six (6)
7 months, which need not be consecutive;

8 4. The forfeiture ~~of pay~~ of not more than seven (7) days' pay;

9 5. A fine ~~of~~ not more than seven (7) days' pay;

10 6. A reduction to the next inferior pay grade, if the grade
11 from which demoted is within the promotion authority of the officer
12 imposing the reduction or any officer subordinate to the one who
13 imposes the reduction;

14 7. Extra duties, including fatigue or other duties, for not
15 more than fourteen (14) days, which need not be consecutive; and

16 8. Restriction to certain specified limits, with or without
17 suspension from duty, for not more than fourteen (14) days, which
18 need not be consecutive.

19 E. Except as provided in subsection S of this section, any
20 commanding officer of the grade of major or above may impose upon
21 enlisted members of the officer's command:

22 1. An admonition;

23 2. A reprimand;

1 3. The withholding of privileges for not more than six (6)
2 months, which need not be consecutive;

3 4. The forfeiture of not more than one-half (1/2) of one (1)
4 month's pay per month for two (2) months;

5 5. A fine of not more than one (1) month's pay;

6 6. A reduction to the lowest or any intermediate pay grade, if
7 the grade from which demoted is within the promotion authority of
8 the commanding officer imposing the reduction or any officer
9 subordinate to the one who imposes the reduction, but an enlisted
10 member in a pay grade above E-4 shall not be reduced more than two
11 pay grades;

12 7. Extra duties, including fatigue or other duties, for not
13 more than forty-five (45) days, which need not be consecutive; and

14 8. Restriction to certain specified limits, with or without
15 suspension from duty, for not more than sixty (60) days, which need
16 not be consecutive.

17 F. The Governor, the Adjutant General, or an officer exercising
18 general or special court-martial convening authority may impose:

19 1. Upon officers of the officer's command:

20 a. any punishment authorized in subsection E of this
21 section, except for the punishments provided in
22 paragraphs 6 and 7 of subsection E of this section,
23 and

24

b. arrest in quarters for not more than thirty (30) days,

which need not be consecutive; and

2. Upon enlisted members of the officer's command, any

punishment authorized in subsection E of this section.

Admonitions or reprimands given as nonjudicial punishment to

6 commissioned officers and warrant officers shall be administered in

7 writing. In all other cases, unless otherwise prescribed by

8 regulations promulgated by the Adjutant General, such punishments

9 may be administered either orally or in writing.

10 G. Whenever any punishments are combined to run consecutively,

11 the total length of the combined punishment shall not exceed the

12 authorized duration of the longest punishment included in the

13 combination, and there shall be an apportionment of punishments so

14 that no single punishment in the combination exceeds its authorized

15 length under this section.

H. Once the commanding officer has determined that nonjudicial

17 punishment is appropriate, the commanding officer shall provide

18 reasonable notice to the member of his or her intent to impose

19 nonjudicial punishment. At the time the commanding officer provides

20 notification as required in this subsection, the member shall be

21 entitled to examine all statements and other evidence that the

22 commander has examined and intends to rely upon as the basis for

23 punishment. The member shall be provided a copy of the documentary

24 evidence unless it is privileged, classified, or otherwise

1 restricted by law, regulation, or instruction. At the time the
2 commanding officer provides notification as required in this
3 subsection, the commanding officer shall also inform the member as
4 to the quantum of punishment potentially to be imposed. While a
5 member undergoing nonjudicial punishment is not entitled to
6 representation by a duly appointed defense counsel, the member may
7 seek legal advice from any judge advocate available for this
8 purpose. Upon notification by the officer of his or her intent to
9 impose judicial punishment, the member shall provide a response
10 within forty-five (45) calendar days, or three (3) duty days if on
11 active duty.

12 I. The right to demand trial by court-martial in lieu of
13 nonjudicial punishment shall arise only when arrest in quarters or
14 restriction will be considered as punishments. If the commanding
15 officer determines that arrest in quarters or restriction will be
16 considered as punishments, prior to the offer of nonjudicial
17 punishment the member shall be notified in writing of the right to
18 demand trial by court-martial. Should the commanding officer
19 determine that the punishment options will not include arrest in
20 quarters or restriction, the member shall be notified that there is
21 no right to trial by court-martial in lieu of nonjudicial
22 punishment. Upon notification by the commanding officer of his or
23 her intent to impose nonjudicial punishment that includes arrest in
24 quarters or restriction, the member shall be afforded a reasonable

1 amount of time to confer with legal counsel and to prepare a
2 response.

3 J. The commanding officer who imposes the punishment, or his or
4 her successor in command, may at any time suspend, set aside,
5 mitigate or remit any part or amount of the punishment and restore
6 all rights, privileges and property affected. The commanding
7 officer may also mitigate:

- 8 1. Reduction in grade to forfeiture of pay;
- 9 2. Arrest in quarters to restriction; or
- 10 3. Extra duties to restriction.

11 The mitigated punishment shall not be for a greater period than
12 the punishment mitigated. When mitigating reduction in grade to
13 forfeiture of pay, the amount of the forfeiture shall not be greater
14 than the amount that could have been imposed initially under this
15 article section by the officer who imposed the punishment mitigated.

16 K. A person punished under this section who considers the
17 punishment unjust or disproportionate to the offense may, through
18 his or her chain of command, appeal to a senior officer designated
19 by the Adjutant General to adjudicate appeals arising from
20 nonjudicial punishment. A senior officer so designated by the
21 Adjutant General shall be a member of the same component of the
22 state military forces as the accused. An appeal made pursuant to
23 this subsection shall be lodged within fifteen (15) days after the
24 punishment is announced to the member. The commanding officer

1 exercising appellate authority may, at his or her discretion, extend
2 the deadline for an appeal. The appeal shall be promptly forwarded
3 and decided, and the member shall not be punished until the appeal
4 is decided. The senior officer designated by the Adjutant General
5 as exercising appellate authority may exercise the same powers with
6 respect to the punishment imposed as may be exercised under
7 subsection I of this section by the officer who imposed the
8 punishment. Before acting on an appeal ~~from~~ for a punishment, the
9 senior officer exercising appellate authority shall refer the case
10 to a judge advocate for consideration and advice. When a senior
11 officer is designated by the Adjutant General to adjudicate appeals
12 arising from nonjudicial punishment, such designation shall be
13 accomplished in writing and shall be considered a military
14 publication, as defined in Section 801 of this title (~~Article 1~~).

15 L. Except for nonjudicial punishment imposed by the Governor or
16 the Adjutant General, the final appellate authority for nonjudicial
17 punishment imposed within state military forces is the Adjutant
18 General. A person punished under this section whose appeal was
19 previously denied by a senior officer designated to adjudicate
20 appeals may, through his or her chain of command, lodge an
21 additional appeal with the Adjutant General within five (5) days
22 after the appeal is denied. In the event the officer imposing
23 nonjudicial punishment is a senior officer who is also designated to
24 adjudicate appeals arising from nonjudicial punishment, an appeal

1 thereof shall be addressed directly to the Adjutant General. In the
2 event the officer imposing nonjudicial punishment is the Adjutant
3 General, an appeal thereof shall be addressed directly to the
4 Governor. An appeal offered pursuant to this subsection shall be
5 made only in writing. Neither the Governor nor the Adjutant General
6 shall delegate his or her duties as an appellate authority under
7 this subsection.

8 M. Whenever nonjudicial punishment is imposed under this
9 section:

10 1. After adjudication and while the punishment is being carried
11 out or while the adjudged punishment is pending before the appellate
12 authority, the commander or officer in charge who imposed the
13 nonjudicial punishment, upon the request of the ~~member~~ officer, may:

14 a. excuse the ~~member~~ officer from attendance at scheduled
15 unit training assemblies, or
16 b. arrange for the ~~member~~ officer to drill on alternate
17 dates and in alternate locations; or

18 2. If necessary to maintain good order and discipline within
19 the unit, the commanding officer who imposed the nonjudicial
20 punishment may order the member to drill on alternate dates and in
21 alternate locations. The order shall be reduced to writing and
22 shall become part of the record of nonjudicial punishment.

23 N. The imposition and enforcement of disciplinary punishment
24 under this section for any act or omission shall not be a bar to

1 trial by court-martial or a civilian court of competent jurisdiction
2 for a crime or offense arising out of the same act or omission; but
3 the fact that a disciplinary punishment has been enforced may be
4 demonstrated by the member upon trial and, when so demonstrated, it
5 shall be considered in determining the measure of punishment to be
6 adjudged in the event of a finding or verdict of guilty.

7 Nonjudicial punishment shall not be imposed for an offense
8 previously tried by a civilian court unless so authorized by
9 regulations promulgated by the Adjutant General.

10 O. When nonjudicial punishment has been imposed for an offense,
11 punishment shall not again be imposed for the same offense under
12 this section. Once nonjudicial punishment has been imposed, it may
13 not be increased, upon appeal or otherwise. When a commanding
14 officer determines that nonjudicial punishment is appropriate for a
15 particular member, all known offenses determined to be appropriate
16 for disposition by nonjudicial punishment and ready to be considered
17 at that time, including all offenses arising from a single incident
18 or course of conduct, shall be considered together and shall not be
19 made the basis for multiple punishments. This subsection shall in
20 no way restrict the right of a commanding officer to prefer court-
21 martial charges for an offense previously punished under the
22 provisions of this section.

23 P. In accordance with subsection B of Section 843 of this title
24 ~~(Article 43, subsection B)~~, a person accused of an offense is not

1 liable to be punished under this section if the offense was
2 committed more than two (2) years before the imposition of
3 punishment. Periods in which the member is absent without authority
4 shall be excluded in computing the period of limitation prescribed
5 in this section.

6 Q. Whenever a punishment of forfeiture of pay is imposed under
7 this section, the forfeiture shall not apply to pay accruing before
8 the date that punishment is imposed, but only pay accruing on or
9 after the date that punishment is imposed.

10 R. The Adjutant General may promulgate regulations prescribing
11 the type and form of records to be kept of proceedings conducted
12 pursuant to this section. The Adjutant General may promulgate any
13 other regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
14 section.

15 S. For purposes of this section, no member of the Oklahoma
16 National Guard of the rank of E-8 or E-9 shall be reduced in rank
17 pursuant to this section except when the reduction results from
18 nonjudicial punishment imposed by an officer of the Oklahoma
19 National Guard of the rank of Brigadier General or by the Adjutant
20 General. When imposing nonjudicial punishment on enlisted persons
21 of the rank of E-7 or below, a commander or officer in charge who
22 possesses the rank of colonel may consider reduction in rank as a
23 possible punishment.

24

1 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 390, O.S.L.

2 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 14-140), is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 Section 14-140. A. This act shall be known and may be cited as
5 the "Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act".

6 B. As used in ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech
7 Assistance Act:

8 1. "Technology center school" means a technology center school
9 under the governance of the State Board of Career and Technology
10 Education;

11 2. "Eligible Guard member" means a current member of the
12 Oklahoma National Guard in good standing who has a high school
13 diploma or who has completed General Educational Development (GED)
14 requirements and who has enrolled in a technology center school; and

15 3. "Program" means the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech
16 Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this
17 section.

18 C. 1. There is hereby created the Oklahoma National Guard
19 CareerTech Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible
20 Guard members who enroll in a technology center school. Subject to
21 the availability of funds, the amount of assistance shall be
22 equivalent to the amount of tuition for a career and technology
23 program in which the eligible Guard member is enrolled leading to

24

1 certification or licensure, not to exceed a maximum of three (3)
2 years.

3 2. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
4 granted without any limitation other than the amount of funds
5 available for the program and the number of eligible Guard members
6 who apply, subject to any cap established by the Military Department
7 of the State of Oklahoma.

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

12 D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
13 allocated to the technology center school from the Oklahoma National
14 Guard CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to
15 Section 2 14-141 of this ~~act~~ title.

16 E. To be eligible to apply for the program, an eligible Guard
17 member shall:

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

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

23 3. Agree in writing to serve actively in good standing with the
24 Oklahoma National Guard for not less than twenty-four (24) months

1 after completion of the last semester for which the member receives
2 assistance pursuant to this section.

3 F. To retain eligibility for the program, an eligible Guard
4 member shall:

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

8 2. Maintain the requirements for retention and completion as
9 established by the technology center school in which the member is
10 enrolled;

11 3. Maintain a minimum grade point of average of 2.0 on a 4.0
12 scale;

13 4. Maintain satisfactory participation in the Oklahoma National
14 Guard; and

15 5. Possess a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or Air Force
16 Specialty Code (AFSC) after his or her first semester.

17 G. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to the
18 provisions of this section shall submit an application on a form
19 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to
20 the Educational Service Office of the Military Department prior to
21 the semester for which assistance is sought. The eligible Guard
22 member's ~~Commander~~ commander or his or her designee shall confirm a
23 member's standing and eligibility to the technology center school in
24 which the student is enrolled. The Military Department may

1 establish a cap on the number of eligible Guard members allowed to
2 participate per semester per technology center school program.

3 H. The eligible Guard member's ~~Commander~~ commander may deny an
4 application submitted by an eligible Guard member for continued
5 program assistance if he or she fails to comply with the provisions
6 of paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 of subsection F of this section.

7 I. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to this
8 section who is eligible for federal education benefits for
9 vocational training shall exhaust all such federal benefits, when
10 available, first.

11 J. An eligible Guard member who has received program assistance
12 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply
13 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section
14 shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as follows:

15 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant
16 to the provisions of this section;

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

19 3. Multiply the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this
20 subsection by the number of months the member did not fulfill the
21 requirements of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section.

22 Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma National Guard
23 CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2
24 14-141 of this ~~act~~ title.

1 K. An eligible Guard member who has received program assistance
2 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply
3 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section
4 due to hardship circumstances may request a waiver from repayment.
5 A waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the Adjutant
6 General.

7 L. By July 1 annually, the State Board of Career and Technology
8 Education shall notify the Adjutant General of the amount of funding
9 available in the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance
10 Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section ~~2~~ 14-141 of this ~~act~~
11 title.

12 M. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall
13 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of ~~this act~~ the
14 Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act including
15 deadlines for submission of applications required by subsection G of
16 this section. The Military Department of the State of Oklahoma
17 shall promulgate regulations pertaining to the application process
18 and the determination of eligibility for the program. The Board and
19 the Department shall coordinate the promulgation of rules and
20 regulations, respectively. ~~The Adjutant General may promulgate~~
21 ~~regulations to implement the provisions of this act~~

22 N. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to this
23 section who is eligible for federal education benefits for
24

1 | vocational training shall exhaust all such federal benefits, when
2 | available, first.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY Section 21, Chapter 344, O.S.L.

4 2025 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 14-142.1), is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 Section 14-142.1. A. Subject to the provisions of this
7 section, the Adjutant General may permit a ~~qualifying member~~
8 ~~described in Section 18 of this act~~ an eligible Guard member as
9 defined in Section 14-140 or 3231 of this title who is entitled to
10 education assistance under ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard
11 CareerTech Assistance Act to elect to transfer to one or more of the
12 dependents specified in subsection C of this section a portion of
13 such individual's entitlement to such assistance, subject to the
14 limitation under subsection D of this section.

15 B. An individual referred to in subsection A of this section is
16 any member of the uniformed services who, at the time of the
17 approval of the individual's request to transfer entitlement to
18 educational assistance under this section, has completed at least:

19 1. Six (6) years of service in the Oklahoma National Guard and
20 enters into an agreement to serve at least four (4) more years as a
21 member of the uniformed services; or

22 2. The years of service as determined in regulations pursuant
23 to subsection J of this section.

24 C. Eligible dependents.

1 1. An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to
2 educational assistance under this section may transfer the
3 individual's entitlement to an eligible dependent or a combination
4 of eligible dependents.

5 2. For purposes of this subsection, the term "eligible
6 dependent" has the meaning given to the term "dependent" under
7 ~~subparagraphs A, D, and I~~ of Section 1072(2)(A), (D), and (I) of
8 Title 10 of the United States Code.

9 D. Limitation of months of transfer.

10 The total number of months of entitlement transferred by an
11 individual under this section may not exceed thirty-six (36) months.
12 The Adjutant General may prescribe regulations that would limit the
13 months of entitlement that may be transferred under this section to
14 no less than eighteen (18) months.

15 E. Designation of transferee. An individual transferring an
16 entitlement to education assistance under this section shall:

17 1. Designate the dependent or dependents to whom such
18 entitlement is being transferred; and

19 2. Designate the number of months of such entitlement to be
20 transferred to such dependent.

21 F. Time for transfer; revocation and modification:

22 1. Subject to the time limitation for use of entitlement under
23 ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act, and
24 except as provided in subsection K or L of this section, an

1 individual approved to transfer entitlement to educational
2 assistance under this section may transfer such entitlement only
3 while serving as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard when the
4 transfer is executed.

5 2. An individual transferring entitlement under this section
6 may modify or revoke at any time the transfer of any unused portion
7 of the entitlement so transferred. The modification or revocation
8 of the transfer of entitlement under this subsection shall be made
9 by the submittal of written notice of the action to the Adjutant
10 General and Governor.

11 3. Entitlement transferred under this section may not be
12 treated as marital property, or the asset of a marital estate,
13 subject to division in a divorce or other civil proceeding.

14 G. A dependent to whom entitlement to educational assistance is
15 transferred under this section may not commence the use of the
16 transferred entitlement until:

17 1. In the case of entitlement transferred to a spouse, the
18 completion by the individual making the transfer of at least:

19 a. six (6) years of service in the Oklahoma National
20 Guard, or

21 b. the years of service as determined in regulations
22 pursuant to subsection J of this section; or

23 2. In the case of entitlement transferred to a child, both:

1 a. the completion by the individual making the transfer
2 of at least:
3 (1) six (6) years of service in the Oklahoma National
4 Guard, or
5 (2) the years of service as determined in regulations
6 pursuant to subsection J of this section, or
7 b. either:
8 (1) the completion by the child of the requirements
9 of a secondary school diploma ~~for~~ or equivalency
10 certificate) certificate, or
11 (2) the attainment by the child of eighteen (18)
12 years of age.

13 H. Additional Administrative Matters.

14 1. The use of any entitlement to educational assistance

15 transferred under this section shall be charged against the
16 entitlement of the individual making the transfer at the rate of one
17 (1) month for each month of transferred entitlement that is used.

18 2. Except as provided under paragraph 2 of subsection E of this
19 section and subject to paragraphs 5 and 6 of this subsection:

20 a. in the case of entitlement transferred to a spouse
21 under this section, the spouse is entitled to
22 educational assistance under ~~this chapter~~ the Oklahoma
23 National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act in the same
24 manner as the individual from whom the entitlement was

transferred as if the individual were not on active duty, and

b. in the case of entitlement transferred to a child under this section, the child is entitled to educational assistance under ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act in the same manner as the individual from whom the entitlement was transferred as if the individual were not on active duty.

3. The monthly rate of education assistance payable to a

dependent to whom entitlement referred to in paragraph 2 of this subsection is transferred under this section shall be payable:

- a. in the case of a spouse, at the same rate as such entitlement would otherwise be payable under ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act to the individual making the transfer as if the individual were not on active duty, and
- b. in the case of a child, at the same rate as such entitlement would otherwise be payable under ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act to the individual making the transfer as if the individual were not on active duty.

4. Death of transferor: The death of an individual

transferring an entitlement under this section shall not affect the

1 use of the entitlement by the dependent to whom the entitlement is
2 transferred.

3 a. Death prior to transfer to designated transferees: In
4 the case of an eligible individual whom the Adjutant
5 General has approved to transfer the individual's
6 entitlement under this section who, at the time of
7 death, is entitled to educational assistance under
8 ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech
9 Assistance Act and has designated a transferee or
10 transferees under subsection E of this section but has
11 not transferred all of such entitlement to such
12 transferee or transferees, the Adjutant General shall
13 transfer the entitlement of the individual under this
14 section by evenly distributing the amount of such
15 entitlement between all such transferees who would not
16 be precluded from using some or all of the transferred
17 benefits due to the expiration of time limitations
18 found in paragraph 5 of this subsection
19 notwithstanding the limitations under subsection F of
20 this section.

21 b. If a transferee cannot use all of the transferred
22 benefits under subparagraph a of this subsection
23 because of expiration of a time limitation, the unused
24 benefits will be distributed among the other

designated transferees who would not be precluded from using some or all of the transferred benefits due to ~~expiration of~~ time limitations found in paragraph 5 of this subsection, unless or until there are no transferees who would not be precluded from using the transferred benefits because of expiration of a time limitation.

5. Limitation on age of use by child transferees.

- a. In general. A child to whom entitlement is transferred under this section may use the benefits transferred without regard to the fifteen-year delimiting date specified in ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act, but may not, except as provided in subparagraph b or c of this paragraph, use any benefits so transferred after attaining the age of twenty-six (26) years.
- b. Primary caregivers of seriously injured members of the armed forces and veterans.
 - (1) In general. Subject to division (2) of this subparagraph, in the case of a child who, before attaining the age of twenty-six (26) years, is prevented from pursuing a chosen program of education by reason of acting as the primary provider of personal care services for a veteran

or member of the Oklahoma National Guard, the child may use the benefits beginning on the date specified in division (3) of this subparagraph for a period whose length is specified in ~~division (4) of this subparagraph~~ 6 of this section.

(2) Inapplicability for revocation.

Division (1) of this subparagraph shall not apply with respect to the period of an individual as a primary provider of personal care services if the period concludes with the revocation of the individual's designation as such a primary provider.

(3) Date for commencement of use. The date specified in this division for the beginning of the use of benefits by a child under division (1) of this subparagraph is the later of:

(a) the date on which the child ceases acting as the primary provider of personal care services for the veteran or member concerned as described in division (1) of this subparagraph,

(b) the date on which it is reasonably feasible,
as determined under regulations prescribed

by the Adjutant General, for the child to initiate or resume the use of benefits, or

(c) the date on which the child attains the age of twenty-six (26) years.

6. Length of use. The length of the period specified in this paragraph for the use of benefits by a child under division (1) of subparagraph b of paragraph 5 of this section is the length equal to the length of the period that:

- a. begins on the date on which the child begins acting as the primary provider of personal care services for the veteran or member ~~concerned~~ as described in division (1) of subparagraph b of paragraph 5 of this section, and

b. ends on the later of:

(1) the date on which the child ceases acting as the primary provider of personal care services for the veteran or member as described in division (1) of subparagraph b of paragraph 5 of this section, or

(2) the date on which it is reasonably feasible, as so determined, for the child to initiate or resume the use of benefits, or

c. in any case in which the Adjutant General determines that an individual to whom entitlement is transferred

under this section has been prevented from pursuing the individual's chosen program of education before the individual attains the age of twenty-six (26) years because the educational institution or training ~~established establishment~~ closed ~~temporarily,~~ temporarily or permanently) permanently, under an established policy based on an executive order of the Governor or due to an emergency situation, the Adjutant General shall extend the period during which the individual may use such entitlement for a period equal to the number of months that the individual was so prevented from pursuing the program of education, as determined by the Adjutant General.

14 7. The purposes for which a dependent to whom entitlement is
15 transferred under this section may use such entitlement shall
16 include the pursuit and completion of the requirements of a
17 secondary school diploma (~~or~~ or equivalency ~~certificate~~)
18 certificate.

19 8. The administrative provisions of ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma
20 National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act shall apply to the use of
21 entitlement transferred under this section, except that the
22 dependent to whom the entitlement is transferred shall be treated as
23 the eligible individual for purposes of such provisions.

I. Overpayment.

1 1. Subject to paragraph 2 of this subsection, in the event of
2 an overpayment of educational assistance with respect to a dependent
3 to whom entitlement is transferred under this section, the dependent
4 and the individual making the transfer shall be jointly and
5 severally liable to the State of Oklahoma for the amount of the
6 overpayment.

7 | 2. Failure to complete service agreement.

8 a. Except as provided in subparagraph b of this paragraph, if
9 If an individual transferring entitlement under this section fails
10 to complete the service agreed to by the individual under division
11 (1) of subsection b of this paragraph in accordance with the terms
12 of the agreement of the individual under that subsection pursuant to
13 this section, the amount of any transferred entitlement under this
14 section that is used by a dependent of the individual as of the date
15 of such failure shall be treated as an overpayment of educational
16 assistance for which the individual shall be solely liable to the
17 State of Oklahoma for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of
18 this act in the case of an individual who fails to complete service
19 agreed to by the individual:

~~(1)~~ a. by reason of death of the individual, or

(2) b. for a reason referred to in ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma
National Guard CareerTech Assistance Act.

23 J. Regulations.

1 1. The Adjutant General shall prescribe regulations for
2 purposes of this section.

3 2. Such regulations shall specify:

4 a. the manner of authorizing the transfer of entitlements
5 under this section,

6 b. the eligibility criteria in accordance with subsection
7 B of this section, and

8 c. the manner and effect of an election to modify or
9 revoke a transfer of entitlement under paragraph 2 of
10 subsection F of this section.

11 3. The Adjutant General may not prescribe any regulation that
12 would provide for a limitation on eligibility to transfer unused
13 education benefits to family members based on a maximum number of
14 years in the Oklahoma National Guard.

15 K. In the case of a dependent to whom entitlement to
16 educational assistance is transferred under this section who dies
17 before using all of such entitlement, the individual who transferred
18 the entitlement to the dependent may transfer any remaining
19 entitlement to a different eligible dependent, notwithstanding
20 whether the individual is serving as a member of the Armed Forces
21 when such transfer is executed.

22 L. In the case of an individual who transfers entitlement to
23 educational assistance under this section who dies before the
24 dependent to whom entitlement to educational assistance is so

1 transferred has used all of such entitlement, such dependent may
2 transfer such entitlement to another eligible dependent in
3 accordance with the provisions of this section.

4 SECTION 7. REPEALER Section 20, Chapter 344, O.S.L. 2025
5 (70 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 14-142), is hereby repealed.

6 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

7 SECTION 9. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
8 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
9 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
10 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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