

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1243

By: Strom of the House

and

Hicks of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to career and technology education;
12 creating the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech
13 Assistance Act; providing short title; defining
14 terms; creating the Oklahoma National Guard
15 CareerTech Assistance Program to provide tuition
16 assistance to certain eligible members; providing for
17 amount of assistance subject to availability of
18 funding; limiting assistance to certain number of
19 years; allowing establishment of certain cap;
20 prohibiting assistance for courses taken in excess of
21 certain requirements; providing for eligibility;
22 providing eligibility retention requirements;
23 providing application process; allowing denial of
24 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; directing
 coordination 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.

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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:

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

B. As used in this act:

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

2. "Program" means the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this act; and

3. "Technology center school" means a technology center school district under the governance of the State Board of Career and Technology Education.

C. 1. There is hereby created the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible Guard members who enroll in a technology center school. Subject to the availability of funds, the amount of assistance shall be

1 equivalent to the amount of tuition for a career and technology
2 program in which the eligible Guard member is enrolled leading to
3 certification or licensure, not to exceed a maximum of three (3)
4 years.

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

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

14 D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
15 allocated to the technology center school from the Oklahoma National
16 Guard CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to
17 Section 2 of this act.

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

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

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

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

5 F. To retain eligibility for the program, an eligible Guard
6 member shall:

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

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

13 3. Maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0
14 scale;

15 4. Maintain satisfactory participation in the Oklahoma National
16 Guard; and

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

19 G. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to the
20 provisions of this act shall submit an application on a form
21 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to
22 the Educational Service Office of the Military Department prior to
23 the semester for which assistance is sought. The eligible Guard
24 member's Commander or his or her designee shall confirm a member's

1 standing and eligibility to the technology center school in which
2 the student is enrolled. The Military Department may establish a
3 cap on the number of eligible Guard members allowed to participate
4 per semester per technology center school program.

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

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

13 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant
14 to the provisions of this act;

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

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

20 Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma National Guard
21 CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2
22 of this act.

23 J. An eligible Guard member who has received program assistance
24 pursuant to the provisions of this act and who fails to comply with

1 the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section due to
2 hardship circumstances may request a waiver from repayment. A
3 waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the Adjutant
4 General.

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

9 L. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall
10 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act including
11 deadlines for submission of applications required by subsection G of
12 this section. The Military Department of the State of Oklahoma
13 shall promulgate regulations pertaining to the application process
14 and the determination of eligibility for the program. The Board and
15 the Department shall coordinate the promulgation of rules and
16 regulations, respectively. The Adjutant General may promulgate
17 regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

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

21 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
22 for the State Board of Career and Technology Education to be
23 designated the "Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance
24 Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject

1 to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received
2 by the State Board of Career and Technology Education from state
3 appropriations provided for the purpose of implementing the
4 provisions of Section 1 of this act. All monies accruing to the
5 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
6 expended by the State Board of Career and Technology Education for
7 the purpose of providing assistance to eligible Guard members
8 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 of this act. Expenditures
9 from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
10 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
11 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
12 approval and payment.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

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

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19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
20 03/03/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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