

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 398

By: Pugh and Jett of the Senate

3 and

4 Duel of the House  
5

6 An Act relating to veterans' employment and training;  
7 directing the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs  
8 to serve as principal assistance organization;  
9 directing the establishment of certain workforce  
10 training; directing certain education of available  
11 opportunities; directing training matches; providing  
12 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

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

17 A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall serve as  
18 the state's principal assistance organization under the United  
19 States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program for employers and  
20 transitioning servicemembers.

21 B. As the state's principal assistance organization under the  
22 United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program for  
23 qualified businesses in this state and for transitioning  
24 servicemembers who reside in, or who wish to reside in, this state,  
the Department shall:

1        1. Establish and maintain, as applicable, its certification for  
2 the SkillBridge program or any other similar workforce training and  
3 transition programs established by the United States Department of  
4 Defense;

5        2. Educate businesses, business associations, and transitioning  
6 servicemembers on the SkillBridge program and its benefits, and  
7 educate military command and personnel within the state on  
8 opportunities available to transitioning servicemembers through the  
9 SkillBridge program;

10       3. Assist businesses in obtaining approval for skilled  
11 workforce training curricula under the SkillBridge program,  
12 including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, internships, or  
13 fellowships; and

14       4. Match transitioning servicemembers who are deemed eligible  
15 for SkillBridge participation by their military command with  
16 training opportunities offered by the corporation or participating  
17 businesses, with the intent of having transitioning servicemembers  
18 achieve gainful employment in this state upon completion of their  
19 SkillBridge training.

20       SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

1 Passed the Senate the 23rd day of February, 2023.

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3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
6 2023.

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8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Presiding Officer of the House  
10 of Representatives