

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 398

By: Pugh

AS INTRODUCED

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

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 63.23 of Title 72, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

B. As the state's principal assistance organization under the United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program for qualified businesses in this state and for transitioning

1 servicemembers who reside in, or who wish to reside in, this state,
2 the Department shall:

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

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

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

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

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