

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL 159

6 By: Mann

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to veterans; directing establishment
9 of agency headquarters and resource center in certain
10 location; requiring certain collaboration; directing
11 establishment of certain online interactive portal;
12 stating purpose; creating Oklahoma Unified Veteran
13 Services Commission; providing for membership;
14 stating duties of Commission; authorizing certain
15 collaboration; providing for Commission staffing;
16 requiring report of Commission findings to be
17 submitted electronically to certain persons by
18 certain date; providing for codification; and
19 providing an effective date.

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

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 461 of Title 72, unless there is
23 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall establish
its headquarters and a veterans resource center in a single location
in Del City, Oklahoma, that provides information and referral
services to connect veterans with available public and private
services.

1 B. Any state agency that provides any services to veterans
2 shall collaborate with the Department to provide services through
3 the veterans resource center established under this section.

4 C. The Department shall establish a publicly available online
5 interactive portal for the purpose of supporting public and private
6 veteran services. The portal shall include all services available
7 to veterans in this state.

8 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 462 of Title 72, unless there is
10 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Unified Veteran
12 Services Commission, which shall consist of eleven (11) members:

13 1. One member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro
14 Tempore of the Senate;

15 2. One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of
16 the Senate;

17 3. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

19 4. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the
20 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

21 5. The Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs or successor
22 cabinet position;

23 6. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
24 or designee;

1 7. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
2 Services or designee;

3 8. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security
4 Commission or designee;

5 9. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and
6 Technology Education or designee;

7 10. The Chancellor of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
8 Education or designee; and

9 11. The Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
10 Services or designee.

11 B. 1. The Commission shall study, evaluate, and make
12 recommendations for the resources needed and costs associated with
13 the establishment of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
14 headquarters and a veterans resource center pursuant to Section 1 of
15 this act.

16 2. The Commission may collaborate with any state agency that
17 provides dedicated services to veterans to assess the needs and
18 costs associated with providing services through the headquarters
19 and veterans resource center.

20 C. Staffing for the Commission shall be provided by the Office
21 of Management and Enterprise Services and the Oklahoma Department of
22 Veterans Affairs.

23 D. The reports of the findings of the Commission including, but
24 not limited to, potential sites, architectural renderings, and

1 physical or financial evaluation of the proposed facility shall be
2 made no later than December 31, 2026. The Commission shall
3 electronically submit reports of its findings to the President Pro
4 Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
5 the chair of the standing committee of each house of the Legislature
6 with primary jurisdiction over military and veteran affairs, and the
7 chair of the standing committee of each house of the Legislature
8 with primary jurisdiction over appropriations.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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