

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 31

By: Hicks, Stanley, and Alvord
of the Senate

3 and

4 Strom of the House

5
6 [career and technology education - tuition
7 assistance - cap - eligibility - requirements -
8 application process - repayment of assistance -
9 hardship waiver - notification - rules and
regulations - fund - expenditures - codification -
effective date -
emergency]

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

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 14-140 of Title 70, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

18 B. As used in this act:

19 1. "Technology center school" means a technology center school
20 under the governance of the State Board of Career and Technology
21 Education;

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

3 3. "Program" means the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech
4 Assistance Program established pursuant to the provisions of this
5 section.

6 C. 1. There is hereby created the Oklahoma National Guard
7 CareerTech Assistance Program to provide assistance to eligible
8 Guard members who enroll in a technology center school. Subject to
9 the availability of funds, the amount of assistance shall be
10 equivalent to the amount of tuition for a career and technology
11 program in which the eligible Guard member is enrolled leading to
12 certification or licensure, not to exceed a maximum of three (3)
13 years.

14 2. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
15 granted without any limitation other than the amount of funds
16 available for the program and the number of eligible Guard members
17 who apply, subject to any cap established by the Military Department
18 of the State of Oklahoma.

19 3. Assistance allowed by this section shall not be allowed for
20 courses taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a
21 technology center school program leading to certification or
22 licensure.

23 D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
24 allocated to the technology center school from the Oklahoma National

1 Guard CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to
2 Section 2 of this act.

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

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

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

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

14 F. To retain eligibility for the program, an eligible Guard
15 member shall:

16 1. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory progress
17 according to standards of the technology center school in which the
18 member is enrolled;

19 2. Maintain the requirements for retention and completion as
20 established by the technology center school in which the member is
21 enrolled;

22 3. Maintain a minimum grade point of average of 2.0 on a 4.0
23 scale;

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1 4. Maintain satisfactory participation in the Oklahoma National
2 Guard; and

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

5 G. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to the
6 provisions of this section shall submit an application on a form
7 prescribed by the Military Department of the State of Oklahoma to
8 the Educational Service Office of the Military Department prior to
9 the semester for which assistance is sought. The eligible Guard
10 member's Commander or his or her designee shall confirm a member's
11 standing and eligibility to the technology center school in which
12 the student is enrolled. The Military Department may establish a
13 cap on the number of eligible Guard members allowed to participate
14 per semester per technology center school program.

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

19 I. An eligible Guard member seeking assistance pursuant to this
20 section who is eligible for federal education benefits for
21 vocational training shall exhaust all such federal benefits, when
22 available, first.

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

1 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section
2 shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as follows:

3 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant
4 to the provisions of this section;

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

7 3. Multiply the amount determined in paragraph 2 of this
8 subsection by the number of months the member did not fulfill the
9 requirements of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section.

10 Repayments shall be deposited into the Oklahoma National Guard
11 CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2
12 of this act.

13 K. An eligible Guard member who has received program assistance
14 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply
15 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section
16 due to hardship circumstances may request a waiver from repayment.
17 A waiver request shall be submitted in writing to the Adjutant
18 General.

19 L. By July 1 annually, the State Board of Career and Technology
20 Education shall notify the Adjutant General of the amount of funding
21 available in the Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance
22 Revolving Fund created pursuant to Section 2 of this act.

23 M. The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall
24 promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act including

1 deadlines for submission of applications required by subsection G of
2 this section. The Military Department of the State of Oklahoma
3 shall promulgate regulations pertaining to the application process
4 and the determination of eligibility for the program. The Board and
5 the Department shall coordinate the promulgation of rules and
6 regulations, respectively. The Adjutant General may promulgate
7 regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

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

11 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
12 for the State Board of Career and Technology Education to be
13 designated the "Oklahoma National Guard CareerTech Assistance
14 Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject
15 to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received
16 by the State Board of Career and Technology Education from state
17 appropriations provided for the purpose of implementing the
18 provisions of Section 1 of this act. All monies accruing to the
19 credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
20 expended by the State Board of Career and Technology Education for
21 the purpose of providing assistance to eligible Guard members
22 pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 of this act. Expenditures
23 from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
24 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the

1 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
2 approval and payment.

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

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

8 Passed the Senate the 24th day of March, 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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12 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
13 2025.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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