

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 13, 2025

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR

5 SENATE BILL NO. 159

6 By: Mann

7 [veterans - headquarters and resource center -
8 collaboration - portal - Commission - report -
9 codification - effective date]

10
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

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

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

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

23 C. The Department shall establish a publicly available online
24 interactive portal for the purpose of supporting public and private

1 veteran services. The portal shall include all services available
2 to veterans in this state.

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

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

8 1. One member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro
9 Tempore of the Senate;

10 2. One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of
11 the Senate;

12 3. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

14 4. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the
15 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

16 5. The Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs or successor
17 cabinet position;

18 6. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
19 or designee;

20 7. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
21 Services or designee;

22 8. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Employment Security
23 Commission or designee;

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1 9. The Director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and
2 Technology Education or designee;

3 10. The Chancellor of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
4 Education or designee; and

5 11. The Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise
6 Services or designee.

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

12 2. The Commission may collaborate with any state agency that
13 provides dedicated services to veterans to assess the needs and
14 costs associated with providing services through the headquarters
15 and veterans resource center.

16 C. Staffing for the Commission shall be provided by the Office
17 of Management and Enterprise Services and the Oklahoma Department of
18 Veterans Affairs.

19 D. The reports of the findings of the Commission including, but
20 not limited to, potential sites, architectural renderings, and
21 physical or financial evaluation of the proposed facility shall be
22 made no later than December 31, 2026. The Commission shall
23 electronically submit reports of its findings to the President Pro
24 Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,

1 the chair of the standing committee of each house of the Legislature
2 with primary jurisdiction over military and veteran affairs, and the
3 chair of the standing committee of each house of the Legislature
4 with primary jurisdiction over appropriations.

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

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
7 February 13, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS

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