

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 5, 2025

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 SENATE BILL NO. 31

5 By: Hicks, Stanley, and Alvord
6 of the Senate

7 and

8 Strom of the House

9 [career and technology education - tuition
10 assistance - cap - eligibility - requirements -
11 application process - repayment of assistance -
12 hardship waiver - notification - rules and
13 regulations - fund - expenditures - codification -
14 effective date -

15 **emergency]**

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

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

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

22 B. As used in this act:

23 1. "Technology center school" means a technology center school
24 under the governance of the State Board of Career and Technology
Education;

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

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

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

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

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

1 D. Assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be
2 allocated to the technology center school from the Oklahoma National
3 Guard CareerTech Assistance Revolving Fund created pursuant to
4 Section 2 of this act.

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

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

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

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

16 F. To retain eligibility for the program, an eligible Guard
17 member shall:

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

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

24

1 3. Maintain a minimum grade point of average of 2.0 on a 4.0
2 scale;

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

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

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

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

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

1 **J.** An eligible Guard member who has received program assistance
2 pursuant to the provisions of this section and who fails to comply
3 with the provisions of paragraph 4 of subsection F of this section
4 shall be required to repay an amount to be calculated as follows:

5 1. Determine the total amount of assistance provided pursuant
6 to the provisions of this section;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
2 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
3 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
4 approval and payment.

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

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

10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
11 March 5, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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