

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 517

By: Stanley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; authorizing establishment of the ODVA Foundation; allowing Foundation to receive contributions; directing incorporation of Foundation; providing authority for designation of initial membership; placing limits on voting membership; requiring financial records and documents of the Foundation to be available for audit; providing certain exemptions; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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 63.3a of Title 72, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission is hereby authorized to establish a private, charitable, not-for-profit foundation, to be known as the "ODVA Foundation". The purpose of the Foundation shall be to encourage financial contributions for the educational, training, and empowerment initiatives of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, and the support of Oklahoma's veterans, reservists, and their dependents. Such contributions shall be

1 supplementary to any state funding received by the Oklahoma  
2 Department of Veterans Affairs and shall provide a means to further  
3 meet the needs of the veteran community in this state.

4 B. The ODVA Foundation created pursuant to this section shall  
5 not be a public body and may receive contributions from any public  
6 or private source to carry out the purposes of this section  
7 including, but not limited to, gifts or grants from private  
8 individuals, companies, foundations, corporations, and others in the  
9 private and public sectors.

10 C. Upon incorporation, the ODVA Foundation shall operate  
11 exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and shall secure  
12 tax-exempt status under the appropriate provision of Section 501(c)  
13 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, 26 U.S.C., Section  
14 501(c).

15 D. The commissioners of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission shall  
16 determine the initial members of the Foundation. The Oklahoma  
17 Department of Veterans Affairs shall be authorized to create the  
18 board of the ODVA Foundation. No employee of the Oklahoma  
19 Department of Veterans Affairs shall be a voting member of the board  
20 of the ODVA Foundation. Any voting member of the board of the ODVA  
21 Foundation who may have a financial interest in an action under  
22 consideration by the ODVA Foundation shall abstain from voting on  
23 any such matter.

1 E. The ODVA Foundation shall make all of its financial records  
2 and documents including work papers, except for the names of donors  
3 and other privileged or confidential materials, available to  
4 auditors who are performing audits of the Oklahoma Department of  
5 Veterans Affairs.

6 SECTION 2. 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.

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