

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 3747

By: Grego, Manger, Wolfley, and  
Smith of the House

3 and

4 Hamilton of the Senate  
5

6  
7 An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending 72  
8 O.S. 2021, Section 225, which relates to the Oklahoma  
9 Veterans Commission; adding Commission powers and  
10 duties; creating alternative to State Veterans Home  
11 care under certain conditions; requiring the Oklahoma  
12 Department of Veterans Affairs to pay for stays at  
13 private nursing facilities under certain conditions;  
14 limiting the Department's liability for failure to  
15 procure veteran facility placement under certain  
16 circumstances; and providing an effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2021, Section 225, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 225. The Oklahoma Veterans Commission, in addition to  
21 its other powers and duties as herein provided, shall have the  
22 following specific powers and duties which shall, however, not be  
23 deemed to be exclusive: (a) To make necessary rules and regulations  
24 not inconsistent with Section 221 et seq. of this title for the  
operation of the institutions. (b) To rule upon eligibility of  
applicant and requirements for admission to the institution. (c) To  
appoint all administrative personnel and provide for the employment

1 of all such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the  
2 provisions of Section 221 et seq. of this title and any other duties  
3 as may be prescribed by law. The salaries and tenure of office of  
4 all personnel shall be determined by the Commission. (d) To approve  
5 or disapprove all claims or expenditures from such appropriations as  
6 may be made to the Commission prior to the payment thereof, except  
7 as may be otherwise provided by law. (e) To enter into agreement or  
8 contract with the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
9 Services, or other departments of the State of Oklahoma, to provide  
10 necessary services to carry out the provisions of Section 221 et  
11 seq. of this title. (f) To enter into agreement or contract with  
12 the Veterans Administration, or other appropriate federal agency now  
13 in existence or hereafter created, to provide necessary services to  
14 carry out the provisions of this act; including but not limited to,  
15 agreements by which the federal government contributes funds for the  
16 construction of buildings in whole or in part. (g) To contract, as  
17 herein provided or as otherwise provided by law, to remodel,  
18 construct, repair, build additions, modernize or add improvements  
19 necessary for hospitalization and domiciliary care of veteran  
20 patients, members, or employee housing, using funds available by  
21 law. (h) To expend necessary sums from funds provided by law, to  
22 provide architectural plans, specifications, costs or other  
23 information required by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, or  
24 other appropriate federal agency, as basis of application for

1 approval to receive federal grant of funds to remodel, repair,  
2 construct, build additions, modernize, or added improvements of  
3 domiciliary or hospital buildings necessary for the care of  
4 veterans, including tuberculosis, mentally ill, and neuro-  
5 psychiatric, but not excluding others. (i) To enter into agreements  
6 or contracts with private nursing facilities to provide necessary  
7 services to eligible Oklahoma veterans who reside more than one  
8 hundred (100) miles from a State Veterans Home in accordance with  
9 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 240.1 of Title 72, unless there  
12 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. If an eligible Oklahoma veteran, at the time of his or her  
14 application for admission to a State Veterans Home, resides with  
15 family members more than one hundred (100) miles from a State  
16 Veterans Home, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall pay  
17 for a bed at a long-term skilled nursing care facility located  
18 within one hundred (100) miles of the eligible Oklahoma veteran's  
19 residence.

20 B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, payment for a  
21 bed at a long-term skilled nursing care facility pursuant to this  
22 section shall be subject to available federal and state funds.

23 C. If, after the Department has attempted good faith  
24 negotiations with all applicable facilities located within the one-

1 hundred-mile radius of the eligible veteran's residence, the  
2 Department is unable to procure placement of an eligible veteran  
3 under this section, the Department shall not be liable for failure  
4 to place such veteran in a facility pursuant to this section.

5 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

6 Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of March, 2024.

7

8

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

9

10

11 Passed the Senate the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

12

13

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24