

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 358

By: Simpson of the Senate

and

Hardin (Tommy) of the House

An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending Section 1, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 2017, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 387, O.S.L. 2017 (72 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 421), which relates to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Registry; requiring certain designation; modifying requirement for certain information; modifying requirement for promulgation of rules; modifying definition; requiring the State Department of Health to provide certain notification in certain circumstances; prohibiting the release of certain social security numbers; specifying certain information to be transmitted; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Registry

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 2017, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 387, O.S.L. 2017 (72 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 421), is amended to read as follows:

Section 421. A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall create and maintain a registry of all veterans in this state by January 1, 2020, which shall be titled the "Oklahoma Veterans Registry". The registry shall include the following information regarding the veteran:

1. Name;
2. Military ~~ranking~~ rank and branch of service;
3. Dates of service;
4. ~~Documentation~~ Percentage of one hundred percent (100%) service-disability, service-connected disability, if applicable; ~~and~~
5. Date of death and place of ~~burial~~ interment, if applicable; and
6. Name of the veteran's spouse, if applicable.

B. As a component of the veterans registry created pursuant to subsection A of this section, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall designate those veterans within the registry as one hundred percent (100%) service-disabled Oklahoma veterans, if applicable. The registry designation shall also be maintained as a separate list within the registry for all one hundred percent (100%) service-disabled Oklahoma veterans. The Department shall be responsible for verification of all information provided through the registry and shall verify veteran service disability status at least once every four (4) years.

C. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs ~~shall~~ may promulgate rules for implementing the provisions of this section.

D. For purposes of this section, "veteran" ~~means a person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States who was discharged or released with an honorable discharge. For those veterans with a designation of one hundred percent (100%) service-disabled, the veteran shall have been assigned a disability percentage of one hundred percent (100%) by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs~~ shall have the same meaning as specified in Section 2 of this title.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-317b of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Commissioner of the State Department of Health shall authorize the regular transmission of a list to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs of all registered deaths of residents of this state that have occurred within the state and who are indicated to be a veteran on the death record. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall use the transmitted list to identify Oklahoma veterans, as defined in Section 2 of Title 72 of the Oklahoma Statutes, for purposes of populating, updating and maintaining the veterans registry established in Section 421 of Title 72 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Social Security Number of an individual veteran shall not be released as a part of the registry. The State Department of Health shall transmit to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs the following:

1. Veteran's name;
2. Social Security Number;
3. Date of death; and
4. Place of interment, if applicable.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

Passed the Senate the 18th day of February, 2019.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 16th day of April, 2019.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____