

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 15, 2023

3 SENATE BILL NO. 398

By: Pugh

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6 An Act relating to veterans' employment and training;
7 directing the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
8 to serve as principal assistance organization;
9 directing the establishment of certain workforce
10 training; directing certain education of available
11 opportunities; directing training matches; providing
12 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 63.23 of Title 72, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall serve as
18 the state's principal assistance organization under the United
19 States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program for employers and
20 transitioning servicemembers.

21 B. As the state's principal assistance organization under the
22 United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program for
23 qualified businesses in this state and for transitioning
24 servicemembers who reside in, or who wish to reside in, this state,
the Department shall:

1 1. Establish and maintain, as applicable, its certification for
2 the SkillBridge program or any other similar workforce training and
3 transition programs established by the United States Department of
4 Defense;

5 2. Educate businesses, business associations, and transitioning
6 servicemembers on the SkillBridge program and its benefits, and
7 educate military command and personnel within the state on
8 opportunities available to transitioning servicemembers through the
9 SkillBridge program;

10 3. Assist businesses in obtaining approval for skilled
11 workforce training curricula under the SkillBridge program,
12 including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, internships, or
13 fellowships; and

14 4. Match transitioning servicemembers who are deemed eligible
15 for SkillBridge participation by their military command with
16 training opportunities offered by the corporation or participating
17 businesses, with the intent of having transitioning servicemembers
18 achieve gainful employment in this state upon completion of their
19 SkillBridge training.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
22 February 15, 2023 - DO PASS

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