STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

SENATE BILL 358   By: Simpson

<u>AS INTRODUCED</u>

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; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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<u>, which shall be titled the "Oklahoma Veterans Registry"</u>. 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 of one hundred percent (100%) service-disability, if applicable~~ If a veteran enters any percentage of service-connected disability, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs staff shall confirm the claimed percentage with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; this will verify eligibility of veterans claiming one hundred percent (100%) service-connected disability for purposes of the sales tax exemption, as well as generate statistical data on other levels of service-connected disability among Oklahoma veterans; ~~and~~

5. Date of death and place of burial, 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~~ any person

who has served the full obligation for active duty, Reserve or

National Guard service in the military, or received an early

discharge for a medical condition, hardship or reduction in force

and has been separated or discharged from such service honorably or

under honorable conditions. 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.

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:

For the purpose of updating the Oklahoma Veteran's Registry, the

State Department of Health shall notify the Oklahoma Department of

Veterans Affairs regarding the death of anyone it knows to be an

Oklahoma veteran.

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

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