

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 983

By: Bullard

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to workers' compensation; authorizing
8 reduction in workers' compensation insurance premiums
9 for employer participation in certain apprenticeship
10 programs; providing qualifications and requirements
11 for reduction in premiums; requiring certain annual
12 reports; requiring certain certification; authorizing
13 promulgation of rules by Insurance Commissioner;
14 providing for codification; and providing an
15 effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 42.1 of Title 85A, unless there
19 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. For each policy of workers' compensation insurance issued or
21 renewed in this state on or after November 1, 2021, there may be
22 granted by the insurer a reduction in the premium for the policy not
23 to exceed five percent (5%) if the insured has been certified by the
24 State Department of Education to the Workers' Compensation
25 Commission and Insurance Commission as a participant in the

1 Apprenticeships, Internships and Mentorships (AIM) Act of 2016 and
2 has notified its insurer in writing of such certification.

3 B. If granted, the premium discount provided by this section
4 may be applied to an insured's policy of workers' compensation
5 insurance at the discretion of the insured's insurer pro rata as of
6 the date the insured receives the certification and shall continue
7 for as long as the insured maintains the certification; provided,
8 however, that an insurer shall not be required to credit the actual
9 amount of the premium discount to the account of the insured until
10 the final premium audit under the policy. Certification of an
11 insured shall be required for each year in which a premium discount
12 is granted.

13 C. If it is determined that an insured misrepresented its
14 qualifications for certification pursuant to Section 2 of this act,
15 the workers' compensation insurance policy of the insured may be
16 subject to an additional premium for the purposes of reimbursement
17 of a previously granted premium discount and to cancellation in
18 accordance with the provisions of the policy.

19 D. At the discretion of the insured's insurer if granting a
20 premium reduction, each insurer shall make an annual report, in
21 accordance with rules promulgated by the Insurance Commissioner, to
22 the Insurance Commissioner illustrating the total dollar amount of
23 the premium discounts applied pursuant to this section.

1 E. The Insurance Commissioner and the State Department of
2 Education shall conduct a study to determine the impact of the
3 premium discounts provided pursuant to this section in encouraging
4 employers to provide apprenticeships, internships and mentorships
5 for students.

6 F. The Insurance Commissioner may promulgate rules necessary
7 for the implementation and enforcement of this section.

8 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 42.2 of Title 85A, unless there
10 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 A. An employer that has been certified as a participant in the
12 Apprenticeships, Internships and Mentorships (AIM) Act of 2016
13 pursuant to this section may be eligible for a premium discount
14 under the employer's workers' compensation insurance policy pursuant
15 to Section 1 of this act if the State Department of Education
16 certifies to the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Insurance
17 Commissioner that the employer:

18 1. Has entered into a training agreement with one or more AIM
19 students and the student's parent or guardian in accordance with AIM
20 requirements;

21 2. Has developed, in accordance with AIM requirements, a
22 detailed training plan for the AIM student that focuses on
23 development of technical skills and employability skills;

1 3. Assigns a mentor to each AIM student and assists in
2 monitoring the progress of the student; provided, a mentor may be
3 assigned to more than one student;

4 4. Provides workers' compensation insurance coverage for each
5 AIM student;

6 5. Complies with all federal, state and local laws and
7 regulations regarding the employment of students; and

8 6. Complies with the rules of the State Department of Education
9 regarding AIM placement.

10 B. A self-insured employer or an employer member of a group
11 self-insurance association that provides AIM placements for one or
12 more AIM students substantially in accordance with this section may
13 be certified by the State Department of Education to Workers'
14 Compensation Commission and the Insurance Commission as an AIM
15 employer in compliance with this act.

16 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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