By: Hines of the Senate

and

Miller of the House

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission; authorizing the establishment of the State of Oklahoma Veterans Foundation; stating purpose of Foundation; allowing Foundation to receive contributions; directing incorporation of Foundation; providing authority for designation of initial membership and election of the board of directors; prohibiting certain board members from voting on certain matters; prohibiting certain preferential consideration; requiring financial records to be available for audit; providing certain exceptions; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1.     NEW LAW     A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 441 of Title 72, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A.   There is hereby authorized the establishment by the Oklahoma Veterans Commission of a private, not-for-profit, charitable organization to be known as the "State of Oklahoma Veterans Foundation".  The Foundation shall be for the purpose of soliciting, accepting, receiving, holding, investing, managing, utilizing, and expending contributions of money, real or personal property, and

1  services, for use in support of the activities, services,

2  facilities, properties, and programs of the Commission and the

3  Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, as they support veterans

4  who are residents of this state.  Such contributions shall be

5  supplementary to any state funding received by the Department and

6  shall provide a means to further assist the needs of the veteran

7  community in this state.

8      B.   The Foundation created pursuant to this act shall not be a

9  public body and may receive contributions from any public or private

10  source to carry out the purposes of this act including, but not

11  limited to, gifts or grants from private individuals, companies,

12  foundations, corporations, and others in the private and public

13  sectors.

14      C.   Upon incorporation, the Foundation shall operate exclusively

15  for charitable and educational purposes and shall secure tax-exempt

16  status under the appropriate provision of Sections 501(c) and 509(a)

17  of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, 26 U.S.C.,

18  Sections 501(c) and 509(a).

19      D.   The Department shall be authorized to create the board of

20  the Foundation.  The commissioners of the Oklahoma Veterans

21  Commission shall determine the initial members of the Foundation and

22  elect the board of directors of the Foundation.  No employee of the

23  Department shall be a voting member of the board of directors of the

24  Foundation.  Any voting member of the board of directors of the

1 Foundation who may have a financial interest in an action under

2 consideration by the Foundation shall abstain from voting on any

3 such matter.

4     E.  No administrator of the Department shall provide any

5 preferential consideration to a potential resident of a State

6 Veterans Home in the application or admission process due to any

7 prior or pledged contribution to the Foundation.

8     F.  The Foundation shall make all of its financial records and

9 documents including work papers, except for the names of donors and

10 other privileged or confidential materials, available to auditors

11 who are performing audits of the Department.

12     SECTION 2.  It being immediately necessary for the preservation

13 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby

14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and

15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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1    Passed the Senate the 10th day of March, 2025.

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                                     Presiding Officer of the Senate
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5    Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,

6    2025.

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9                                              of Representatives

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