

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 1582

By: Dollens

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; creating the  
8 Oklahoma Military to Machinists Act; defining terms;  
9 directing the Governor's Council for Workforce and  
10 Economic Development to develop the Military to  
11 Machinists Program for Veterans; specifying purpose  
12 of program; mandating designation of employees as  
13 liaisons; prescribing duties of liaisons; specifying  
14 how the program shall operate; requiring distribution  
15 of promotional materials for the program; providing  
16 for annual report of program; specifying contents and  
17 recipients of report; directing Council to create a  
18 Veterans Platform to Employment Program; describing  
19 purpose of program; specifying where program will be  
20 operated; requiring annual report of program; listing  
21 contents and recipients of report; defining term;  
22 directing certain state entities to identify and  
23 distribute materials related to common veteran mental  
24 health conditions; providing for codification; and  
providing an effective date.

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 501 of Title 72, unless there is  
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma  
Military to Machinists Act".

1 B. As used in the Oklahoma Military to Machinists Act:

2 1. "Advanced manufacturing" means a manufacturing process that  
3 makes extensive use of computer, high-precision or information  
4 technologies integrated with a high-performance work force in a  
5 production system capable of furnishing a heterogeneous mix of  
6 products in small or large volumes with either the efficiency of  
7 mass production or the flexibility of custom manufacturing in order  
8 to respond quickly to customer demands. Advanced manufacturing  
9 includes newly developed methods to manufacture existing products  
10 and the manufacture of new products emerging from new advanced  
11 technologies;

12 2. "Eligible business" means a business that:

- 13 a. has operations in Oklahoma,  
14 b. has been registered with the Secretary of State to  
15 conduct business in the state for not less than twelve  
16 (12) months, and  
17 c. is in good standing with the Oklahoma Tax Commission  
18 as to the payment of all state and local taxes.

19 Eligible business shall not include the state or any political  
20 subdivision of the state;

21 3. "Private vocational school" means any private school as  
22 defined in Section 21-101 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes and  
23 licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Private Vocational Schools;

1           4. "Public institution of higher education" means any of the  
2 state educational institutions within The Oklahoma State System of  
3 Higher Education identified in Section 3201 of Title 70 of the  
4 Oklahoma Statutes;

5           5. "Qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program"  
6 means a for-credit or noncredit sub-baccalaureate advanced  
7 manufacturing certificate program offered by a public institution of  
8 higher education or a private vocational school in which at least  
9 seventy-five percent (75%) of the graduates of such certificate  
10 program are employed in a field related to or requiring such  
11 certificate in the year following graduation; and

12           6. "Veteran" means any person who served on active duty in the  
13 Armed Forces of the United States or in the Oklahoma National Guard  
14 on federal active duty under Title 10 of the United States Code, and  
15 was discharged or released from that service under conditions other  
16 than dishonorable.

17           C. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Governor's Council for  
18 Workforce and Economic Development shall develop and operate a pilot  
19 program with selected Local Workforce Development Boards to be known  
20 as the Military to Machinists Program for Veterans. The pilot  
21 program shall assist any veteran in:

22           1. Earning an advanced manufacturing certificate from a  
23 qualifying advanced manufacturing certificate program; and  
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1           2.   Securing employment in the field of advanced manufacturing  
2 with an eligible business after the veteran has obtained an advanced  
3 manufacturing certificate.

4           D.   1.   The Council shall designate an appropriate number of  
5 employees, as determined by the Council, to act as liaisons, and  
6 each liaison shall provide the assistance described in subsection C  
7 of this section on behalf of the program.

8           2.   In providing the assistance described in paragraph 1 of  
9 subsection C of this section, each liaison designated pursuant to  
10 this subsection shall also assist a veteran served by the program to  
11 obtain funding for the cost of attending a qualifying advanced  
12 manufacturing certificate program. Such funding may include, but  
13 need not be limited to, tuition and fee waivers and expenditures  
14 from the Council.

15           3.   In providing the assistance described in paragraph 2 of  
16 subsection C of this section, each liaison designated pursuant to  
17 this subsection shall also assist any eligible business to apply for  
18 grants and tax credits, if applicable.

19           E.   The Council shall operate the pilot program within its  
20 selected Local Workforce Development Boards. The Council may expand  
21 the program in other Local Workforce Development Boards in the  
22 state.

23           F.   Not later than July 1, 2022, the Council shall develop or  
24 approve promotional materials describing the pilot program and the

1 various opportunities and benefits that the program may provide for  
2 veterans in the state. The Council shall distribute such materials  
3 to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of  
4 Labor, Local Workforce Development Boards, qualified veterans'  
5 charitable organizations and educational institutions. The Council  
6 shall revise and redistribute the materials as the Council deems  
7 appropriate.

8 G. Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter until  
9 the pilot program is terminated, the Council shall report on the  
10 operation of the pilot program and its recommendation to continue,  
11 discontinue or expand the program. Such report shall include  
12 measures of the effectiveness of the program, including, but not  
13 limited to, data on the:

14 1. Number of veterans served by the pilot program;

15 2. Number of veterans pursuing or earning advanced  
16 manufacturing certificates through the program and the type and  
17 amount of funding assistance received by the veterans;

18 3. Number of veterans securing employment in the field of  
19 advanced manufacturing with an eligible business through the  
20 program;

21 4. The salaries earned by such veterans;

22 5. The number of such veterans retaining employment in advanced  
23 manufacturing over time; and

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1           6. The number and amount of grants and tax credits received by  
2 eligible businesses hiring such veterans.  
3 The Council shall submit the report to the Governor, the Speaker of  
4 the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore  
5 of the Oklahoma State Senate.

6           SECTION 2.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 502 of Title 72, unless there is  
8 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9           A. Not later than January 1, 2022, the Governor's Council for  
10 Workforce and Economic Development shall develop and operate a pilot  
11 program to be known as the Veterans Platform to Employment Program.  
12 The program shall provide training and subsidized employment for  
13 veterans who have experienced long-term unemployment.

14           The pilot program shall provide veterans served by the program  
15 with:

16           1. A preparatory program that includes services such as skills  
17 assessments, career-readiness workshops, employee-assistance  
18 programs and coaching; and

19           2. Employment assistance that includes identifying positions  
20 with local employers and providing subsidies to employers that hire  
21 veterans for trial-work experiences that may lead to continued  
22 employment.

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1 The pilot program may offer additional services to assist veterans,  
2 including personal- and family-support services and financial  
3 counseling.

4 B. The Council shall operate the pilot program within a  
5 selected region of the state. The Council may offer the program in  
6 other regions of the state, in conjunction with the appropriate  
7 Local Workforce Development Board for that region.

8 C. Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter until  
9 the pilot program is terminated, the Council shall submit a report  
10 on the operation of the pilot program and its recommendation to  
11 continue, discontinue or expand the program. Such report shall  
12 include measures of the effectiveness of the program, including, but  
13 not limited to, data on the number of veterans served by the  
14 program, the number of veterans placed with employers by the program  
15 and the salaries earned by such veterans, and the number of such  
16 veterans retaining employment over time. The Council shall submit  
17 the report to the Governor, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of  
18 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State  
19 Senate.

20 D. As used in this section, "veteran" means any person who  
21 served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States or in  
22 the Oklahoma National Guard on federal active duty under Title 10 of  
23 the United States Code, and was discharged or released from that  
24 service under conditions other than dishonorable.

1           SECTION 3.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 503 of Title 72, unless there is  
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4           The Department of Labor, in cooperation with the Oklahoma  
5 Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oklahoma Department of Mental  
6 Health and Substance Abuse Services, shall identify appropriate  
7 written materials to distribute to employers on the topic of mental  
8 health conditions common to veterans, including post-traumatic  
9 stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression, anxiety and grief.  
10 The materials shall provide guidance on identifying the signs and  
11 symptoms of these mental health conditions and assisting employees  
12 who are veterans and who exhibit such signs and symptoms in the  
13 workplace. The Department of Labor shall distribute such materials  
14 to employers participating in or eligible to participate in the  
15 pilot programs established under Sections 1 and 2 of this act, and  
16 may distribute the materials to other employers that may hire  
17 veterans.

18           SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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