



# SENATE BILL 693: Veteran Access, Liberty, Options for Recovery.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	April 30, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Britt, Lee, Craven	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Amy Darden
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 693 would regulate services related to veterans' benefits matters.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 693 would create a new G.S. 143B-1278 in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) Article 14 of Chapter 143B regulating compensation for services related to veterans' benefits matters.

A *veterans' benefits matter* would be defined as the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim affecting an individual who has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for a benefit, program, service, commodity, pension, function, or status, the entitlement to which is determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the DMVA pertaining to veterans, their dependents, their survivors and any other individual eligible for such benefits.

The bill would prohibit the following:

- Receiving compensation for preparation, presentation or prosecution of, or advising, consulting, or assisting an individual with an initial disability claim related to a veterans' benefits matter.
- Receiving compensation for referring an individual to another person to present, prosecute, or advise, consult, or assist with a veterans' benefits matter.
- Guaranteeing or advertising that an individual is certain to receive specific veterans' benefits or that any individual is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefits.
- A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter or engaging in the preparation of an initial claim for a fee cannot:
  - Aggressively or directly solicit business regarding any veterans' benefit matter.
  - Gain direct access to any personal medical, financial, or government benefits log in, username, or password information.
- A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter cannot utilize a medical professional for a secondary medical evaluation, if they have an employment relationship with that professional.
- Entering into an agreement related to a veterans' benefits matter that does not comply with the requirements of G.S. 143B-1278(c).

Kara McCraw  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578

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The bill would require a written agreement that memorializes all the terms before rendering any services on a veterans' benefits matter. The written agreement must comply with the following:

- Be signed by both of the parties and contain all the terms regarding the individual's payment of fees for services rendered including (i) fees for services are contingent upon a successful outcome, and (ii) no initial fee may be charged.
- Contain a specific disclosure in at least 12-point font in a readily noticeable and identifiable place in the agreement. The disclosure must also be provided orally, be acknowledged verbally, and signed.

A violation of G.S. 143B-1278 would be an unfair trade practice. Attorneys licensed to practice in North Carolina are specifically excluded.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would become effective October 1, 2025.