

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 693  
Judiciary Committee Substitute Adopted 4/30/25

Short Title: Veteran Access, Liberty, Options for Recovery.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 26, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REGULATE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RELATED TO VETERANS'  
3 BENEFITS MATTERS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by  
6 adding a new section to read:

7 **"§ 143B-1278. Compensation for services related to veterans' benefits matters.**

8 (a) Definitions. – Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply  
9 in this section:

10 (1) Compensation. – The payment of money, anything of value, or a financial  
11 benefit.

12 (2) Veterans' benefits matter. – The preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a  
13 claim affecting an individual who has filed or expressed an intent to file a  
14 claim for a benefit, program, service, commodity, pension, function, or status,  
15 the entitlement to which is determined under the laws and regulations  
16 administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the  
17 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs pertaining to veterans, their  
18 dependents, their survivors, and any other individual eligible for such benefits.

19 (b) Prohibitions. – A person shall not do any of the following:

20 (1) Receive compensation for preparation, presentation, or prosecution of, or  
21 advising, consulting, or assisting an individual with an initial disability claim  
22 related to a veterans' benefits matter, except as permitted by this section.

23 (2) Receive compensation for referring an individual to another person to prepare,  
24 present, prosecute, or advise, consult, or assist the individual with a veterans'  
25 benefits matter.

26 (3) Directly or by implication guarantee or advertise that any individual is certain  
27 to receive specific veterans' benefits or that any individual is certain to receive  
28 a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefits.

29 (4) A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or  
30 consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter or engaging in the  
31 preparation of an initial claim for a fee shall not:

32 a. Aggressively or directly solicit business regarding any veterans'  
33 benefit matter.

34 b. Gain direct access to any personal medical, financial, or government  
35 benefits log in, username, or password information.



- 1           (5)    A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or  
2           consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter shall not utilize a  
3           medical professional for a secondary medical exam with whom they have an  
4           employment relationship.
- 5           (6)    Enter into any agreement related to a veterans' benefits matter that does not  
6           comply with subsection (c) of this section.
- 7           (c)    Memorialization of Terms. – Before rendering any services, a person seeking to  
8           receive compensation for preparation, presentation, or prosecution of, or advising, consulting, or  
9           assisting an individual with, a veterans' benefits matter shall memorialize all terms of the  
10          agreement in a written agreement that complies with all of the following criteria:
- 11          (1)    The written agreement is signed by both parties and contains all terms  
12          regarding the individual's payment of fees for services rendered, including  
13          both of the following:
- 14               a.    Fees for services are contingent upon a successful outcome and shall  
15                not exceed five times the one month increase in benefits.
- 16               b.    No initial fee shall be charged.
- 17          (2)    The written agreement must clearly provide at the outset of the business  
18          relationship the following disclosure: "This business is not sponsored by, or  
19          affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the  
20          Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, or any other federally chartered  
21          veterans' service organization. Other organizations, including, but not limited  
22          to, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, a local veterans' service  
23          organization, and other federally chartered veterans' service organizations  
24          may be able to provide you with this service free of charge. Products or  
25          services offered by this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these  
26          organizations. You may qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the  
27          benefits for which you are receiving services here." This written disclosure  
28          shall appear in at least 12-point font and shall appear in a readily noticeable  
29          and identifiable place in the person's agreement with the individual seeking  
30          services. This disclosure shall also be provided orally to the individual and the  
31          individual shall verbally acknowledge understanding of the oral disclosure  
32          and sign the document in which the written disclosure appears to represent  
33          understanding of these provisions. The person offering services shall retain a  
34          copy of the written disclosure while providing veterans' benefits services for  
35          compensation to the individual and for at least one year after the date on which  
36          the service relations terminate.
- 37          (d)    Penalty. – A violation of this section is an unfair trade practice under G.S. 75-1.1.
- 38          (e)    Exclusions. – Nothing in this section shall apply to attorneys who are licensed to  
39          practice in the State of North Carolina."

40           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.