

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 208

BY SENATOR CATHEY

VETERANS. Provides relative to certain services provided to veterans. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 29:296(H) and to enact R.S. 29:296(B)(4), (F)(3), (I), and (J),  
3 relative to services for veterans; to provide for restrictions on services provided to  
4 veterans for compensation; to provide for applicability; to provide for an effective  
5 date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 29:296(H) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:296(B)(4),  
8 (F)(3), (I), and (J) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §296. Preserving lawful utilization of services for veterans

10 \* \* \*

11 B.(1) \* \* \*

12 **(4) No person shall receive compensation for any services rendered in**  
13 **connection with any claim for a veteran that has never received a disability**  
14 **rating.**

15 \* \* \*

16 F. Businesses engaging in the preparation of an initial claim or appeal of a  
17 disability rating for a fee shall not do any of the following:

\* \* \*

**(3) Charge a fee for the termination of any contract or agreement, except for those fees charged for actual work performed prior to the request for termination.**

\* \* \*

**H. A private right of action shall exist for a veteran against any person who collected or intended to collect a fee from the veteran in connection with any contract or agreement where the person's negligent or reckless conduct caused a reduction of a disability rating, a denial of benefits, or a delay causing economic loss.**

**(1) A successful right of action shall be entitled to actual damages, lost retroactive benefits, diminished monthly compensation, and attorney fees.**

**(2) A successful action shall be entitled to treble damages for intentional misconduct.**

H. **I.** An entity assisting veterans with their initial disability claims as prescribed within this Section shall, within one hundred twenty days of the request, provide on an annualized basis of all of the following data to the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- (1) Aggregate number of serviced in the state.
- (2) Number of claims approved, denied, and pending.
- (3) Average claim return time.
- (4) Number of clients who received a successful increase who have a previously assigned "agent of record".
- (5) Data provided shall exclude any items of personal financial, medical, or other data deemed confidential, business privileged, or HIPAA protected information.

**J. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to regulate accredited agents, attorneys, or representatives as defined in 38 CFR 14.627 or representation before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.**



actual damages, lost retroactive benefits, diminished monthly compensation, and attorney fees.

Proposed law provides that the person bringing a successful right of action be entitled to treble damages for intentional misconduct.

Proposed law requires that it is not to be construed to regulate accredited agents, attorneys, or representatives as defined by federal rules or representation before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 29:296(H); adds R.S. 29:296(B)(4), (F)(3), (I), and (J))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add prohibition against the charging of a fee for the termination of any contract or agreement, except for those fees charged for actual work performed prior to the request for termination.
3. Add a private right of action for a veteran against any person who collected or intended to collect a fee from the veteran in connection with any contract or agreement for negligence or reckless conduct caused a reduction of a disability rating, a denial of benefits, or a delay causing economic loss.
4. Add a provision that a veteran bringing a successful action be entitled to actual damages, lost retroactive benefits, diminished monthly compensation, and attorney fees.
5. Add a provision that a veteran bringing a successful action be entitled to treble damages for intentional misconduct.
6. Add prohibition against regulating accredited agents, attorneys, or representatives as defined in federal rules or representation before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.