

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to Original Senate Bill No. 208 by Senator Cathey

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, line 2, after "To" delete the remainder of the line and add the following:

3 "amend and reenact R.S. 29:296(H) and to enact R.S. 29:296(B)(4), (F)(3), (I), and (J),  
4 relative to services for veterans; to provide for restrictions on"

5 AMENDMENT NO. 2

6 On page 1, line 6, after "Section 1." delete the remainder of the line and insert the following:

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

9 AMENDMENT NO. 3

10 On page 1, delete lines 9 through 11 and insert the following"

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:

18 \* \* \*

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

22 \* \* \*

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

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

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

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

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

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

