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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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SB 208 Engrossed

DIGEST  
2026 Regular Session

Cathey

Present law provides for certain circumstances that an individual or business is prohibited from providing services to veterans for compensation.

Present law provides for limitations on the amount of compensation received for providing the services.

Present law requires the person providing services to veterans to provide a written disclosure containing certain information regarding veteran's services.

Present law provides that violations of present law constitute an unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

Present law requires entities that assist veterans with initial disability claims to provide certain information to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Present law prohibits any person from receiving compensation for any of the following:

- (1) Referring any individual to another person to advise or assist the individual with any veterans' benefits matter.
- (2) Rendering services in connection with any claim filed within the one-year presumptive period of active-duty release.
- (3) Providing any services rendered in connection with any claim for pension benefits.

Proposed law retains present law and adds an additional prohibition that no person receive compensation for any services rendered in connection with any claim for a veteran that has never received a disability rating.

Present law prohibits businesses engaging in the preparation of an initial claim or appeal of a disability rating for a fee from doing any of the following:

- (1) Utilizing an international call center or data centers for processing veterans' personal information.

- (2) Gaining direct access to any personal medical, financial, or government benefits login, username, or password information.

Proposed law retains present law and adds an additional prohibition against charging 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.

Proposed law provides for 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 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.

Proposed law provides that the person bringing a successful right of action be entitled to 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.