

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 609

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHASSION AND TAYLOR

HEALTH CARE/RECORDS: Provides for the exemption of fees for health records when requested for the federal and state veterans affairs departments

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1165.1(D), relative to healthcare information records; to provide for the
3 exemption of fees for medical records when requested for disability benefits
4 administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Louisiana
5 Department of Veterans Affairs; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1165.1(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1165.1. Healthcare information; records

9 * * *

10 D.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, no
11 healthcare provider, healthcare facility, or custodian of healthcare information shall
12 charge any fee for the preparation, reproduction, handling, or transmission of
13 medical records when such records are requested by or on behalf of a veteran for the
14 sole purpose of submitting a claim for disability benefits administered by the United
15 States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Louisiana Department of Veterans
16 Affairs.

17 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, "veteran" has the same meaning as
18 provided in R.S. 13:5364.

1 (3) The exemption provided in this Subsection shall apply only once per
2 veteran and shall not apply to any subsequent request for medical records regardless
3 of purpose.

4 (4) A healthcare provider or custodian may require reasonable documentation
5 establishing veteran status and that the request is made in connection with a
6 disability benefits claim prior to applying the exemption.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 609 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Chassion

Abstract: Provides for the one-time exemption of fees for health records when veterans are seeking disability benefits administered by the federal and state veterans affairs departments and that healthcare providers may require reasonable documentation to establish veteran status.

Proposed law provides for the one-time exemption of fees when veterans are requesting health records for the sole purpose of disability benefits administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

Proposed law provides that healthcare providers or custodians may require reasonable documentation to establish veteran status and that the records request is made in connection to a disability benefits claim.

(Adds R.S. 40:1165.1(D))