

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 567
Version:	ENGR
Request Number:	
Author:	Rep. Hardin and Sen. Simpson
Date:	3/23/2015
Impact:	\$96,208 for 2 FTE

Research Analysis

SB 567 creates the Veterans Benefits Assistance Act. The measure requires that anyone offering assistance in applying for veterans benefits either be accredited, or an employee or intern at a law firm directly supervised by an accredited attorney. They must also disclose to the claimant, in writing, all federal laws, rules and regulations pertaining to their application, as well as their name, address, phone number, accreditation number, a statement of the claimant's rights, that the person providing assistance did not coerce anyone into an arrangement that financially benefits the person providing assistance, and that income from any other goods or services the person providing assistance may sell to the claimant are justified and reasonable. Entities that refer claimants for assistance must report names and contact information of anyone who has been recommended.

The bill also requires the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs to notify veterans in writing the requirements for anyone offering assistance, and to notify the Insurance Department, State Bar Association, and any appropriate state licensing authorities of the requirements of this law every three years. Finally, certain veterans' organizations are exempted from the provisions of the measure.

This measure includes an emergency clause.

Prepared By: Sean Webster

Fiscal Analysis

According to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans' Affairs, they will require 2 FTE in order to carry out the duties prescribed by SB 567.

Prepared By: Stacy Johnson

Other Considerations

None.