

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

April 10, 2025

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2836

By: Duel and Burns of the House
and
Stanley of the Senate

An Act relating to veterans; enacting the
Safeguarding American Veteran Empowerment Act;
defining terms; providing guidelines for advising
veterans; providing penalties; providing for
noncodification; providing for codification; and
providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Safeguarding
American Veteran Empowerment Act" (SAVE Act).

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 239 of Title 44, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For purposes of this section:

1. "Compensation" means any money, thing of value, or economic
benefit conferred on, or received by, any person in return for

1 services rendered, or to be rendered, by himself or herself or
2 another;

3 2. "Veterans' benefits matter" means preparation, presentation,
4 or prosecution of any claim affecting any person who has filed or
5 expressed an intent to file a claim for any benefit, program,
6 service, commodity, function, status, or entitlement for which
7 veterans, their dependents, their survivors, or any other individual
8 are eligible under the laws and regulations administered by the
9 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Oklahoma
10 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

11 3. Except as provided in paragraph 5 of subsection B of this
12 act, "person" means any natural person, corporation, trust,
13 partnership, incorporated or unincorporated association, or any
14 other legal entity.

15 B. 1. No person may receive compensation for referring any
16 individual to another person to advise or assist the individual with
17 any veterans' benefits matter.

18 2. Any payment of fees by veterans for representation through
19 agents shall be done in accordance with, and not contrary to,
20 Section 14.636 of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

21 3. No person may receive any compensation for any services
22 rendered in connection with any claim filed within the one-year
23 presumptive period of active-duty release, unless the veteran
24

1 acknowledges by signing a waiver that they are within this period
2 and choosing to deny free services available to them.

3 4. A person seeking to receive compensation for advising,
4 assisting, or consulting with any individual in connection with any
5 veterans' benefits matter must, before rendering any services,
6 memorialize the specific terms under which the amount to be paid
7 will be determined in a written agreement signed by both parties.
8 Compensation must be purely contingent upon an increase in benefits
9 awarded, and if successful, compensation must not exceed five times
10 the amount of the monthly increase in benefits awarded based on the
11 claim. No initial or nonrefundable fee may be charged by a person
12 advising, assisting, or consulting an individual on a veterans'
13 benefits matter.

14 5. No person will guarantee, either directly or by implication,
15 a successful outcome or that any individual is certain to receive
16 specific veterans' benefits or that any individual is certain to
17 receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans'
18 benefits.

19 6. Any person advising, assisting, or consulting on veterans'
20 benefits matters for compensation shall provide the following
21 disclosure at the outset of the business relationship:

22 "This business is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the
23 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the
24 Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other

1 federally chartered veterans' service organization. Other
2 organizations including, but not limited to, the Oklahoma
3 Department of Veterans Affairs, a local veterans' service
4 organization, and other federally chartered veterans'
5 service organizations may be able to provide you with this
6 service free of charge. Products or services offered by
7 this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these
8 organizations. You may qualify for other veterans'
9 benefits beyond the benefits for which you are receiving
10 services here."

11 The written disclosure shall appear in at least 12 point font in
12 an easily identifiable place in the person's agreement with the
13 individual seeking services. The individual shall sign the document
14 in which the written disclosure appears to represent understanding
15 of these provisions. The person offering services shall retain a
16 copy of the written disclosure while providing veterans' benefits
17 services for compensation to the individual and for at least one (1)
18 year after the date on which the service relations terminate.

19 7. Businesses advising, assisting, or consulting on veterans'
20 benefits matters for a fee shall abide by the following:

- 21 a. shall not utilize international call centers or data
22 centers for processing veterans' personal information,
- 23 b. shall not use a veteran's personal log-in, username,
24 or password information to access that veteran's

1 medical, financial, or government benefits
2 information, and

3 c. shall ensure that any individual who has access to
4 veterans' medical or financial information undergoes a
5 background check prior to having access to that
6 information. The background check shall be conducted
7 by a reputable source and include identity
8 verification and a criminal records check.

9 C. 1. A violation of the provisions of this section
10 constitutes an unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive act or
11 practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under the Oklahoma
12 Consumer Protection Act.

13 2. Civil penalties shall be in an amount ordered by the
14 district court in an action brought by the Oklahoma Attorney
15 General.

16 3. Each day a violation continues is a separate violation.

17 4. Nothing in this section is to be construed as applying to,
18 limiting, or expanding the requirements imposed on agents,
19 attorneys, or other representatives accredited by the United States
20 Department of Veterans Affairs and regulated by that agency.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
23 April 10, 2025 - DO PASS
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