

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1076

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
15 "Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of
16 2026 (PLUS Act)."

17 SECTION 2. (1) For the purposes of this section:

18 (a) "Compensation" means any money, thing of value, or
19 economic benefit conferred on, or received by, any person in
20 return for services rendered, or to be rendered, by himself or
21 herself or another.

22 (b) "Veterans' benefits matter" means the preparation,
23 presentation, or prosecution of any claim affecting any person who
24 has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for any benefit,
25 program, service, commodity, function, status, or entitlement for
26 which veterans, their dependents, their survivors, or any other
27 individual are eligible under the laws and regulations
28 administered by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs
29 or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

30 (c) "Person" means any natural person, corporation,
31 trust, partnership, incorporated or unincorporated association, or
32 any other legal entity.

33 (2) No person may receive compensation for referring any
34 individual to another person to advise or assist the individual
35 with any veterans' benefits matter.

36 (3) No person may receive any compensation for any services
37 rendered in connection with any claim filed within the one (1)
38 year presumptive period of active-duty release, unless the veteran
39 acknowledges by signing a waiver that they are within this period
40 and choosing to deny free services available to them.

41 (4) A person seeking to receive compensation for advising,
42 assisting, or consulting with any individual in connection with
43 any veterans' benefits matter must, before rendering any services,
44 memorialize the specific terms under which the amount to be paid
45 will be determined in a written agreement signed by both parties.
46 Compensation must be purely contingent upon an increase in
47 benefits awarded, and if successful, compensation must not exceed
48 five (5) times the amount of the monthly increase in benefits
49 awarded based on the claim or Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
50 (\$12,500.00), whichever is the lesser amount. No initial or
51 nonrefundable fee may be charged by a person advising, assisting,
52 or consulting an individual on a veterans' benefit matter.

53 (5) No person will guarantee, either directly or by
54 implication, a successful outcome or that any individual is
55 certain to receive specific veterans' benefits or that any

56 individual is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or
57 amount of veterans' benefit.

58 (6) Any person advising, assisting, or consulting on
59 veterans' benefits matters for compensation must provide the
60 following disclosure at the outset of the business relationship:

61 "This business is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the
62 United States Department of Veterans' Affairs or the Department of
63 Veterans' Affairs, or any other federally chartered veterans'
64 service organization. Other organizations, including, but not
65 limited to, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a local veterans'
66 service organization, and other federally chartered veterans'
67 service organizations may be able to provide you with this service
68 free of charge. Products or services offered by this business are
69 not necessarily endorsed by any of these organizations. You may
70 qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the benefits for which
71 you are receiving services here."

72 The written disclosure must appear in at least twelve (12)
73 point font in an easily identifiable place in the person's
74 agreement with the individual seeking services. The individual
75 must sign the document in which the written disclosure appears to
76 represent understanding of these provisions. The person offering
77 services must retain a copy of the written disclosure while
78 providing veterans' benefits services for compensation to the
79 individual and for at least one (1) year after the date on which
80 the service relations terminate.

81 (7) Businesses advising, assisting, or consulting on
82 veterans' benefits matters for a fee must abide by the following:

83 (a) Must not utilize international call centers or data
84 centers for processing veterans' personal information;

85 (b) Must not use a veteran's personal log-in, username,
86 or password information to access that veteran's medical,
87 financial, or government benefits information;

88 (c) Must ensure that any individual who has access to
89 veterans' medical or financial information undergoes a background
90 check prior to having access to that information. The background
91 check must be conducted by a reputable source and include identity
92 verification and a criminal records check.

93 (8) (a) A violation of the provisions of this section
94 constitutes an unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive act or
95 practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under the Mississippi
96 Unfair Trade Practices Act (Section 74-25-5, Mississippi Code of
97 1972).

98 (b) Civil penalties will be in an amount ordered by the
99 District Court in an action brought by the Attorney General under
100 said act.

101 (c) Each day a violation continues is a separate
102 violation.

103 (d) Any civil penalty collected will be deposited in
104 the State Treasury to the credit of the Mississippi Military
105 Affairs Department.

106 (e) Nothing in this section is to be construed as
107 applying to, limiting, or expanding the requirements imposed on
108 agents, attorneys, or other representatives accredited by the
109 United States Department of Veterans Affairs and regulated by the
110 agency.

111 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
112 and after July 1, 2026.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT ENTITLED THE "PRESERVING LAWFUL UTILIZATION OF
2 SERVICES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2026 (PLUS ACT)"; TO PROVIDE
3 DEFINITIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT NO PERSON MAY RECEIVE ANY
4 COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY
5 VETERAN'S CLAIM UNLESS THE VETERAN SIGNS A WAIVER THAT THEY ARE
6 WITHIN THE ALLOWABLE TIME PERIOD AND ARE CHOOSING TO DENY FREE
7 SERVICES AVAILABLE; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON ASSISTING ON
8 VETERANS' BENEFITS MATTERS FOR COMPENSATION SHALL PROVIDE CERTAIN
9 DISCLOSURES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP; TO
10 PROHIBIT CERTAIN PRACTICES BY BUSINESSES ASSISTING VETERANS
11 BENEFITS MATTERS FOR COMPENSATION; TO PROVIDE CIVIL PENALTIES; AND
12 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate