

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 961

Representatives Brennan, Troy

**Cosponsors: Representatives Miller, J., McNally, Upchurch, Brent, Abdullahi,
Mohamed, Sigrist, Mathews, T.**

To enact section 5901.10 of the Revised Code to 1
govern the practice of providing veterans claim 2
assistance for compensation and to name this act 3
the Veterans Empowerment Through Ethical 4
Representation and Navigation Act 5
(V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act). 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 5901.10 of the Revised Code be 7
enacted to read as follows: 8

Sec. 5901.10. (A) As used in this section: 9

"Compensation" means any money, thing of value, or 10
economic benefit conferred on, or received by, a person in 11
return for services rendered, or to be rendered, by the person 12
or another. 13

"Person" has the meaning defined in section 1101.01 of the 14
Revised Code. 15

"Veterans benefits matter" means the preparation, 16
presentation, or prosecution of, or advising, consulting, or 17
assisting an individual regarding any claim affecting any person 18

who has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for any 19
benefit, program, service, commodity, function, status, or 20
entitlement that is determined to pertain to veterans, their 21
dependents, their survivors, or any other person eligible for 22
such benefits under the laws and regulations administered by the 23
United States department of veterans affairs or by the state. 24

(B) No person shall do any of the following: 25

(1) Receive compensation for preparation, presentation, or 26
prosecution of, or advising, consulting, or assisting an 27
individual regarding any veterans benefits matter, except as 28
permitted under federal law; 29

(2) Receive compensation from an individual for referring 30
that individual to another person to advise or assist the 31
individual with any veterans benefits matter; 32

(3) Provide a guarantee, either directly or by 33
implication, that an individual is certain to be awarded 34
specific veterans or dependent benefits, or certain to receive a 35
specific rating, level, percentage, or amount of benefits from 36
programs administered by the United States department of 37
veterans affairs; 38

(4) Render assistance, for compensation, to an individual 39
regarding a veterans benefits matter without a fee agreement 40
properly registered according to 38 C.F.R. 14.636. 41

(C) A person seeking compensation for providing assistance 42
regarding a veterans benefits matter shall be accredited by the 43
United States department of veterans affairs under 38 C.F.R. 44
14.629. 45

(D) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or 46
deceptive act or practice in connection with a consumer 47

transaction under Chapter 1345. of the Revised Code. 48

Section 2. This act shall be known as the Veterans 49
Empowerment Through Ethical Representation and Navigation Act 50
(V.E.T.E.R.A.N. Benefits Protection Act). 51