

SB 1209 -- Redline

Printer's No. 1508 to Printer's No. 1489 -- An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for Veterans' Trust Fund; in veterans' organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs and providing for veterans' claims assistance standards; and imposing penalties.

Deletions ~~struck~~ · Insertions underlined

~~PRIOR~~ PRINTER'S NO.

1489 ~~PRINTER'S~~ THE NO. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA SENATE BILL Session of No.

~~1508~~ 1209 ~~THE 2026~~ GENERAL ~~INTRODUCED ASSEMBLY BY OF~~ PENNYCUICK, PENNSYLVANIA ~~MASTRIANO, SENATE~~ ROBINSON, BILL ~~LAUGHLIN, Session~~ FONTANA, BROWN, STEFANO, BAKER, VOGEL AND MILLER, MARCH 11, 2026 REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 11, 2026 AN ACT Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of No. the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs and providing for veterans' claims assistance standards;

~~1209 2026 INTRODUCED BY PENNYCUICK, MASTRIANO, ROBINSON, LAUGHLIN, FONTANA, BROWN, STEFANO, BAKER, VOGEL AND MILLER, MARCH 11, 2026 SENATOR MASTRIANO, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AS AMENDED, MARCH 17, 2026 AN ACT Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs and providing for veterans' claims assistance standards;~~

(1) A county director of veterans affairs or an employee ~~20260SB1209PN1508~~ 20260SB1209PN1489 - 2 - of a county veterans affairs office acting in the course of official duties.

~~THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH A LIST OF ALL REGISTERED ENTITIES ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.~~

(3) A description of services offered, including whether ~~20260SB1209PN1508~~ 3 - assistance includes claim preparation, presentation, 20260SB1209PN1489 - 3 - consultation or related support.

(v) A notice that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs does not require paid assistance to file a veterans' benefits claim and that filing a claim through a paid provider does not guarantee a favorable ~~20260SB1209PN1508~~ 4 - outcome or a specific disability rating.

20260SB1209PN1489 - 4 - (vi) An acknowledgment signature line for the veteran, service member or eligible dependent confirming receipt of the disclosure.

~~20260SB1209PN1508~~ 5 - (2) Promise, guarantee or imply a specific outcome, 20260SB1209PN1489 - 5 - veterans' benefits level, disability rating or increase in veterans' benefits.

~~(6) REPRESENT THAT A PERSON HAS SPECIAL ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT CLAIMS SYSTEMS OR THE ABILITY TO EXPEDITE VETERANS' BENEFITS CLAIMS.~~

~~(3) A PERSON SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY NOT REQUEST, REQUIRE OR INDUCE A VETERAN, SERVICE MEMBER OR DEPENDENT TO PROVIDE LOGIN CREDENTIALS, PASSWORDS, AUTHENTICATION TOKENS OR OTHER SECURE ACCESS INFORMATION FOR ANY FEDERAL OR STATE 20260SB1209PN1508~~ 6 - ~~VETERANS' BENEFITS SYSTEM.~~

20260SB1209PN1489 - 6 - (i) five times the amount of the monthly increase awarded based on the claim;

(j) Veterans' Trust Fund.--Money collected under this ~~20260SB1209PN1508~~ 7 - section shall be deposited into the Veterans' Trust Fund.

In addition to criminal penalties, the ~~department~~ may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 per ~~violation~~ violation. ~~MAY BE IMPOSED.~~

~~(1) Enforcement.--The Office of Attorney General may investigate a complaint, issue a subpoena, review the record of~~ 20260SB1209PN1489 - 7 - ~~a person subject to this section and take administrative action necessary to enforce this section.~~

~~(1) ENFORCEMENT.--A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE VOID AND UNENFORCEABLE, AND A PERSON MAY NOT COLLECT OR RETAIN COMPENSATION OBTAINED THROUGH A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS MAY REFER SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS OF THIS SECTION TO:~~

~~(1) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;~~

~~(2) THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT ATTORNEY;~~

~~OR (3) ANY RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARD.~~

"Service member." An individual who serves in the United ~~20260SB1209PN1508~~ 8 - States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or the Pennsylvania National Guard.

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