



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Chair C. T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership
DATE: January 21, 2025
RE: HB0267 – Veterans Benefits Matters - Claim Servicers - Prohibitions and Requirements

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 0267 - Veterans Benefits Matters - Claim Servicers - Prohibitions and Requirements

This bill was sponsored by **Delegate Nick Allen and Delegate Mike Rogers to establish** prohibitions and requirements regarding compensation for certain services related to veterans benefits matters; prohibiting a person that is not V.A. accredited from making certain guarantees. This provides enforcement of the Act under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act to aid constituents and state officials means.

The intent of this legislation aims to ban so-called "claims predators" from preying on veterans by charging veterans to process a claim or to appeal a denial of benefits. HB0267 incorporates federal law into Maryland law by providing that no one may charge fees for claims assistance who is not accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill creates fines for violations and any collected fines are tendered to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

Many veterans at times overwhelmed when faced with the difficulty of searching for critically needed resources and the intent of this is to ensure that they are not taken advantage of. This will help to ensure that we can have oversight of those providing services and to give constituents a means of protection and safety when accessing these services.

The Veterans Caucus mission it to study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans and families in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economics, training, and health. And to assist the Department of Veterans and Military Families in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of the veterans and their families in the State.

The Veterans Caucus House Legislative Review Board offers and **recommends support and a favorable report of HB 0267.**

Thank you,

Mike Rogers

Delegate Mike Rogers
House Chair, Veterans Caucus

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of benefits, employment, education, economics, training, and health, and to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of all veterans in the State.