

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB736

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Sewell

3. **Committee:** Labor and Commerce

4. **Title:** Veterans' Services Protection Act; prohibited practices; penalty.

5. **Summary:** Creates the Veterans' Services Protection Act to prohibit any person from receiving compensation for preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting, or assisting any individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter, as defined in the bill, except as permitted under federal law. The bill provides that a violation of its provisions constitutes a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 51.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary – See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Veterans Services indicates this bill does not present a fiscal impact.

The Office of the Attorney General and Department of Law (OAG) indicates this bill will create a violation of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act (VCPA) to receive compensation for advising or assisting (or for referring someone to a third party for advice or assistance) on any veterans' benefits matter - except as permitted by federal law. This is expected to increase OAG workload requiring an additional \$68,295 in attorney costs each year and an additional \$63,267 in investigator costs each year.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Office of the Attorney General and Department of Law

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.

Date: 2/5/2024