

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB693

Hearing Date: Wednesday March 12, 2025
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: McKeon
One Liner: Prohibit as a deceptive trade practice certain conduct relating to assistance or referrals in veterans benefits matters

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Sanders, Andersen, Cavanaugh, J., Guereca, Hunt, Lonowski, McKeon, Wordekemper
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Dan McKeon
Ken Yount
Boyd Yochum
Greg Holloway
Michael Sheets

Mark Lakamp

Spike Jordan

Beth Bazyn Ferrell
Melissa Allen
Jeffrey M. Baker

Representing:

Opening Presenter
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
American Legion Nebraska
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Great Plains Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America
Lancaster County Nebraska Veterans Council, County Veterans Service Officers Association of Nebraska
County Veterans Service Officers Association of Nebraska Dawes and Sioux County Veterans Service Officer
Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)
Nebraska Veterans Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Nebraska Veterans Council

Opponents:

Ray Colas
John Blomstrom

Representing:

Veterans Benefits Guide
Veterans Guardian

Neutral:

Representing:

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony



Summary of purpose and/or changes:

This bill proposes changes to a section of the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act. It would prohibit receipt of compensation for “preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting, or assisting any individual” in relation to any veterans benefits matter. Compensation for referrals would also be prohibited. This section would not prohibit fee-sharing between attorneys as allowed under Nebraska law and the Nebraska Rules of Professional Conduct. All restrictions in this section would apply only to those whose conduct is not permitted by federal law. Violation of the provisions of this section would constitute a deceptive trade practice under the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act. County veterans service officers are expressly exempted from the bill.

Explanation of amendments:

The amendment adds state veteran service officers to the exemption already provided for county VSOs.

Rita Sanders, Chairperson

