

By Senator Altman

16-01254-16

20161692\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the protection of veterans;  
3           creating s. 295.24, F.S.; prohibiting an agent or  
4           attorney retained for purposes of a veteran's claims  
5           assistance from seeking reimbursement for a specified  
6           assessment from the claimant; providing a penalty;  
7           providing an effective date.

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9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11           Section 1. Section 295.24, Florida Statutes, is created to  
12   read:

13           295.24 Agents or attorneys retained for veterans' claims  
14   assistance; prohibition; penalty.—

15           (1) A person who is recognized as an agent or attorney by  
16   the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs for purposes of  
17   preparing, presenting, and prosecuting claims under laws  
18   administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
19   and is charged an assessment pursuant to 38 U.S.C. s.  
20   5904(a)(6)(A) may not, directly or indirectly, request, receive,  
21   or obtain reimbursement for such assessment from the claimant he  
22   or she represents.

23           (2) A person who violates this section commits a felony of  
24   the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
25   775.083, or s. 775.084.

26           Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2017.