



Governor Ned Lamont

Fact Sheet: 2025 Legislative Proposal

HOUSE BILL 6874

AN ACT ESTABLISHING PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS' BENEFITS FROM CLAIM SHARKS

The Current Situation

Unaccredited businesses, also known as "claim sharks", have been known to exploit veterans by charging them unauthorized fees for assistance filing disability claims.

While this practice illegally targets unassuming veterans, "claim sharks" are taking advantage of a legal gray area to get away with it. Federal law currently prohibits companies without VA accreditation from charging veterans fees to file disability claims, but there is no criminal penalty for violating the law. Recent legislative efforts to rein in this profit-driven shadow industry have stalled in Congress.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Require individuals and organizations currently charging for veterans' benefits services to make certain disclosures prior to engaging with veterans. These disclosures include:

- Individuals seeking to charge fees must notify recipients of assistance in advance and create a written agreement signed by both parties.
- Individuals offering claims advising services must notify those seeking assistance that they are not endorsed or affiliated with the federal or state Departments of Veterans Affairs and that local and federal veteran service organizations may provide this service free of charge. These same notices must be included in any advertising related to these services.

