

S 5274

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Dec 15, 2022

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text: CR S7254-7259)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text: CR S7254-7259) (Dec 15, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5274>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred To | Dec 15, 2022 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Dec 15, 2022)

This bill limits attorneys' fees for claims involving individuals who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.

Further, the bill requires an attorney representing an individual for such a claim to disburse the funds of any judgment or award to that individual before collecting any compensation for services rendered.

The bill also establishes certain penalties for (1) a person who solicits, contracts, charges, receives, or attempts such actions with respect to the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a veterans benefits claim; and (2) any legal representative who charges, demands, receives, or collects for services rendered in connection with certain tort claims or certain claims related to Camp Lejeune.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 15, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 15, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text: CR S7254-7259)

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