

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2863

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit unrecognized individuals from charging fees for legal services provided to veterans related to appeals before the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RIGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit unrecognized individuals from charging fees for legal services provided to veterans related to appeals before the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Secure Legal Services
5 for Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF UNRECOGNIZED INDIVIDUALS**
2 **CHARGING FEES FOR LEGAL SERVICES PRO-**
3 **VIDED TO VETERANS RELATED TO APPEALS**
4 **CLAIMS BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5904(a)(6) of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
8 following new subparagraph:

9 “(F)(i) An individual who is not recognized as an
10 agent or attorney under this section may not directly or
11 indirectly solicit, contract for, charge, receive, or attempt
12 to solicit, contract for, charge, or receive any fee or com-
13 pensation for services rendered in the preparation, presen-
14 tation, or prosecution of an appeal before the Department
15 or the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

16 “(ii) Whoever violates this subparagraph shall be
17 fined in accordance with title 18, imprisoned for not more
18 than one year, or both.

19 “(iii) There is established in the General Fund of the
20 Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘TBI Research and
21 Initiatives Fund’. Amounts collected for violations of this
22 subparagraph shall be deposited in the fund and shall re-
23 main available to the Secretary without fiscal year limita-
24 tion for traumatic brain injury research and initiatives.”.

25 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
26 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-

1 ment of this Act and apply with respect to an act that
2 occurs on or after that date.

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