

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS  
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6374**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 136**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 4, 2025  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Assistance in Obtaining Veteran Benefits.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Tomes  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
                          X DEDICATED  
                          FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that a person may not receive compensation for services related to veterans' benefits matters except as permitted under federal law. It provides that a person may not receive compensation for referring an individual to another person to provide services related to veterans' benefits matters.

The bill provides that a person seeking to receive compensation for services related to veterans' benefits matters must, before rendering any services, memorialize in a written agreement that is signed by both parties and that complies with federal regulations all terms regarding the payment of fees for services rendered. It also provides that a person may not receive excessive or unreasonable fees for services related to veterans' benefits matters.

The bill provides that a violation constitutes a deceptive act under the law concerning deceptive consumer sales.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2026.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Attorney General:* The bill may increase workload for the Attorney General to enforce the newly-prohibited deceptive acts. The bill's provisions should be able to be accomplished within existing resources and staffing.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Deceptive Act:* Unfair and deceptive acts discovered by the Attorney General carry a maximum \$5,000 civil penalty for each violation, which is deposited in the General Fund. If this bill increases the number of unfair and deceptive acts discovered in the state, revenue to the General Fund will increase from civil penalties paid by violators. Actual increases in revenue are unknown but expected to be small.

*Court Fee Revenue:* If additional civil cases occur and court fees are collected, revenue to the state General Fund will increase. The total revenue per case would range between \$100 and \$122. The amount deposited will vary depending on whether the case is filed in a court of record or a municipal court. The following

linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Court Fee Revenue:* If additional cases occur, revenue will be collected by certain local units. If the case is filed in a court of record, the county will receive \$32 and qualifying municipalities will receive a share of \$3. If the case is filed in a municipal court, the county receives \$20, and the municipality will receive \$37. The following linked document describes the fees and distribution of the revenue: [Court fees imposed in civil, probate, and small claims cases.](#)

**State Agencies Affected:** Attorney General.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, city and town courts.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana Trial Court Fee Manual.

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