



**Fiscal Note**  
**Legislative Council Staff**  
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

**SB 25-282: PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS SEEKING BENEFITS**

**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Ball; Pelton B.  
Rep. Feret; Armagost

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Bill Outcome:** Signed into Law  
**Drafting number:** LLS 25-1035

**Version:** Final Fiscal Note  
**Date:** July 23, 2025

**Fiscal note status:** The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

**Summary Information**

**Overview.** The bill creates a deceptive trade practice for certain prohibited actions when assisting with a veterans’ benefits matter.

**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Revenue
- Minimal State Workload
- Local Government

**Appropriations.** No appropriation is required.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

## **Summary of Legislation**

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The bill limits the amount of compensation a person can receive to assist veterans with a veterans' benefits matter. A person may only be compensated for advising, assisting, or consulting on a veterans' benefits matter if the person secures an increase in the benefits awarded. Compensation is limited to the lesser of \$9,000, or 20 percent of any past-due benefits a veteran actually receives after an increase in monthly benefits is awarded as a result of the person's assistance. The bill puts other limitations on assisting veterans with benefit issues, including prohibiting compensation for a claim filed within one year of a members' release from active duty, and requiring a written business agreement and specific disclosures for any compensation a person receives for assisting with a veterans' benefit matter.

A person violating any of the bill's limitations or requirements engages in a deceptive trade practice. If the attorney general or district attorney collects any civil penalty from enforcing these actions as deceptive trade practice, any revenue from fines is deposited in the Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund in the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

## **State Revenue**

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### **Civil Penalties**

Under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act, a person committing a deceptive trade practice may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$20,000 for each violation. Additional penalties may be imposed for subsequent violations of a court order or injunction. This revenue is credited to the Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund, rather than the General Fund like most deceptive trade practice penalties. This revenue is classified as a damage award and is not subject to TABOR. Given the uncertainty about the number of cases that may be pursued by the Attorney General and district attorneys, as well as the wide range in potential penalty amounts, the fiscal note cannot estimate the potential impact of these civil penalties.

### **Filing Fees**

The bill may increase revenue to the Judicial Department from an increase in civil case filings. Revenue from filing fees is subject to TABOR.

## **State Expenditures**

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### **Department of Law**

Workload in the Department of Law will minimally increase if deceptive trade practice complaints are filed. The department will review complaints under the bill and prioritize investigations as necessary within the overall number of deceptive trade practice complaints and available resources.

## **Judicial Department**

The trial courts in the Judicial Department may have an increase in cases filed under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act from the addition of a new deceptive trade practice. It is assumed that veterans' benefits assistance providers will abide by the law and that any violation of the legislation will result in a minimal number of new cases. The fiscal note assumes that this can be accomplished within existing resources and that no change in appropriations is required.

## **Local Government**

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Similar to the state, if district attorneys receive deceptive trade practice complaints related to the new deceptive trade practice under the bill, workload will increase to investigate complaints and seek relief when appropriate. It is assumed most such cases will be handled at the state level by the Attorney General.

## **Effective Date**

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The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 3, 2025, and takes effect on August 6, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Judicial

Military Affairs

Law

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The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).