

Committee on Judiciary

CS/HB 821 — Reimbursement of Assessments

by Civil Justice Subcommittee and Rep. Rooney (CS/SB 1692 by Judiciary Committee and Senator Altman)

This bill prohibits an agent or attorney from requesting or obtaining reimbursement of an assessment imposed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from a veteran claimant.

Under federal law, the VA may impose the assessment on an agent or attorney who represents a claimant seeking veteran's benefits. This assessment may not exceed the lesser of \$100 or 5 percent of the compensation of the attorney or agent. Under the bill, an agent or attorney who requests or obtains reimbursement of the assessment from the claimant commits a second degree misdemeanor.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2016.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0