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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate 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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PAPPAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate 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.

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 “Governing
5 Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits
6 Act” or the “GUARD VA Benefits Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REINSTATEMENT OF PENALTIES FOR CHARGING**
2 **VETERANS UNAUTHORIZED FEES RELATING**
3 **TO CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS UNDER LAWS AD-**
4 **MINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 Section 5905 of title 38, United States Code, is
7 amended—

8 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**Pen-**
9 **alty**” and inserting “**Penalties**” (and conforming
10 the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 59
11 of such title accordingly);

12 (2) by inserting “(a) WITHHOLDING OF BENE-
13 FITS.—” before “Whoever”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(b) CHARGING OF UNAUTHORIZED FEES.—Except
17 as provided in sections 5904 or 1984 of this title, whoever
18 solicits, contracts for, charges, or receives, or attempts to
19 solicit, contract for, charge, or receive, any fee or com-
20 pensation with respect to the preparation, presentation, or
21 prosecution of any claim for benefits under the laws ad-
22 ministered by the Secretary shall be fined as provided in
23 title 18.”.