

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7966

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the verification of the financial independence of financial services counselors providing services to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. MOLINARO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the verification of the financial independence of financial services counselors providing services to members of the Armed Forces, 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 “Protecting our Service  
5 Members and their Families from Predatory Financial  
6 Practices Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VERIFICATION OF THE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE**  
2 **OF FINANCIAL SERVICES COUNSELORS IN**  
3 **THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

4 (a) VERIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.—

5 Section 992 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(A)—

7 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the  
8 end;

9 (B) in clause (ii)—

10 (i) by striking “may” and inserting  
11 “shall”;

12 (ii) by striking “installation by any  
13 means elected by the Secretary from  
14 among the following:” and inserting “in-  
15 stallation—”;

16 (iii) in subclause (I)—

17 (I) by striking “Through” and  
18 inserting “through”; and

19 (II) by striking “Defense.” and  
20 inserting “Defense;”;

21 (iv) in subclause (II)—

22 (I) by striking “By contract” and  
23 inserting “by contract”; and

24 (II) by striking “Internet.” and  
25 inserting “Internet; or”; and

26 (v) in subclause (III)—

1 (I) by striking “Through” and  
2 inserting “through”; and

3 (II) by striking “counseling.” and  
4 inserting “counseling; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
6 clause:

7 “(iii) may not provide financial services through  
8 any individual unless such individual agrees to sub-  
9 mit financial disclosures annually to the Secretary.”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking “instal-  
11 lation by any of the means set forth in subparagraph  
12 (A)(ii), as elected by the Secretary concerned.” and  
13 inserting “installation in accordance with the re-  
14 quirements established under subparagraph (A)(ii)  
15 and (iii).”; and

16 (3) in subsection (b)(4)—

17 (A) by inserting “(A)” before “The Sec-  
18 retary”; and

19 (B) by inserting at the end the following  
20 new subparagraphs:

21 “(B) In carrying out the requirements of subpara-  
22 graph (A), the Secretary concerned shall establish a re-  
23 quirement that each financial services counselor under  
24 paragraph (2)(A)(i), and any other individual providing

1 counseling on financial services under paragraph (2), sub-  
2 mit financial disclosures annually to the Secretary.

3 “(C) The Secretary concerned shall review all finan-  
4 cial disclosures submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B)  
5 to ensure the counselor, or the individual providing coun-  
6 seling, is free from conflict as required under this para-  
7 graph.

8 “(D) If the Secretary concerned determines that a  
9 financial services counselor under paragraph (2)(A)(i), or  
10 any other individual providing counseling on financial  
11 services under paragraph (2), is not free from conflict as  
12 required under this paragraph, the Secretary shall ensure  
13 that the counselor, or the individual providing counseling,  
14 does not provide such services until such time as the Sec-  
15 retary determines that such conflict is resolved.”.

16 (b) REPORT ON FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.—Not  
17 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of  
18 this Act, and annually thereafter, each Secretary con-  
19 cerned shall submit to Congress a report on the percentage  
20 of financial services counselors under paragraph (2)(A)(i)  
21 of section 992(b) of title 10, United States Code (as  
22 amended by subsection (a)), and other individuals pro-  
23 viding counseling on financial services under paragraph  
24 (2) of such section (as amended by subsection (a)) whom  
25 the Secretary determined to be free from conflicts as re-

1 quired under paragraph (4) of such section (as amended  
2 by subsection (a)).

3 (c) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-  
4 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” shall have the mean-  
5 ing given to such term in section 101 of title 10, United  
6 States Code.

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