

S 1281

Veterans Information and Benefits Enhancement Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 18, 2003

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. (Jul 10, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/1281>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Graham, Bob [D-FL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------|-------------|
| Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV] | D · WV | | Jul 9, 2003 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Hearings By (full committee) | Jul 10, 2003 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Veterans Information and Benefits Enhancement Act of 2003 - Includes the following among the diseases to be considered service-connected, and therefore compensable through the Department of Veterans Affairs, when suffered by a veteran who is a former prisoner of war who was detained or interned for at least 30 days: (1) cardiovascular (heart) disease; (2) cerebrovascular disease (stroke); or (3) chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis and primary liver carcinoma.

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary) and the Secretary of Defense to jointly conduct a review of the mission, procedures, and administration of the Dose Reconstruction Program of the Department of Defense. Requires appointment of an advisory board for Program review and oversight.

Directs the Secretary to conduct a study to determine the appropriate disposition of the Air Force Health Study, an epidemiologic study of Air Force personnel responsible for conducting aerial herbicide spray missions during the Vietnam era.

Requires the Secretaries to make specified funds available to the National Academy of Sciences in each of FY 2004 through 2013 for the Academy's Medical Follow-Up Agency of the Institute of Medicine to conduct epidemiological research on military personnel and veterans.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 10, 2003:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Jun 18, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 18, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S8133-8134)
- **Jun 18, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S8134)