

## HR 2237

Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** May 5, 2015

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. (Aug 13, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2237>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (24 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		May 5, 2015
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		May 8, 2015
Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28]	D · TX		May 14, 2015
Del. Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman [R-AS-At Large]	R · AS		Jun 15, 2015
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Oct 8, 2015
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Oct 23, 2015
Rep. Rothfus, Keith J. [R-PA-12]	R · PA		Dec 10, 2015
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Feb 2, 2016
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Mar 10, 2016
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Mar 10, 2016
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Mar 15, 2016
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Apr 13, 2016
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Apr 15, 2016
Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Apr 28, 2016
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		May 17, 2016
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jun 21, 2016
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jun 28, 2016
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jul 6, 2016
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jul 14, 2016
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jul 14, 2016
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Jul 14, 2016
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jul 25, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 13, 2015
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	May 26, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6062	Related bill	<b>Oct 19, 2016:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
114 S 2679	Related bill	<b>May 24, 2016:</b> Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-702.

## Helping Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits Act

This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to open burn pits and other environmental exposures in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The VA shall, in selecting the site, consider entities that:

- are equipped with the specialized equipment needed to study, diagnose, and treat health conditions relating to such exposure;
- have a publication track record of post-deployment health exposures among veterans who served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom;
- have collaborated with a geosciences department that has a medical geology division;
- have developed animal models and in vitro models of dust immunology and lung injury consistent with the injuries of members of the Armed Forces who served in support of such Operations; and
- have expertise in allergy and immunology, pulmonary diseases, and industrial and management engineering.

The VA shall ensure that the center collaborates with the Department of Defense (DOD), institutions of higher education, and other appropriate public and private entities to:

- provide for dissemination within the VA of best practices for the treatment of such conditions and the training of health professionals;
- provide guidance for the VA and DOD health systems in determining the personnel required to provide quality health care for members of the Armed Forces and veterans with such conditions;
- establish, implement, and oversee a comprehensive program to train VA and DOD health professionals in the treatment of such conditions;
- facilitate advancements in the study of the short-term and long-term effects of such exposure;
- conduct basic science and translational research on such conditions for the purposes of understanding the etiology of such conditions and developing preventive interventions and new treatments; and
- provide medical treatment to all veterans identified as part of the burn pits registry established under the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012.

The center shall have access to and make use of the data accumulated by such registry.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Aug 13, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **May 26, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **May 5, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **May 5, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.