

S 3023

The Arla Harrell Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 6, 2016

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-707.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-707. (Jun 29, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3023>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Jun 7, 2016
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Jun 21, 2016
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 23, 2016
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Sep 21, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jun 29, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 6096	Identical bill	Oct 19, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Arla Harrell Act

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reconsider and make a new determination regarding each claim for disability compensation in connection with exposure to mustard gas or lewisite during active military, naval, or air service during World War II that was denied before this bill's enactment. The VA or the Department of Defense (DOD): (1) shall presume that a veteran experienced full-body exposure to mustard gas or lewisite unless proven otherwise; and (2) may not use information contained in the DOD and VA Chemical Biological Warfare Database or any list of known testing sites for mustard gas or lewisite maintained by the VA or DOD as the sole reason for determining that the veteran did not experience such exposure.

The VA shall report to Congress every 90 days on reconsidered claims that were denied.

The VA and DOD shall jointly establish a policy for processing future claims in connection with such exposure.

The bill requires DOD, for purposes of determining whether a site should be added to the list of DOD sites where mustard gas or lewisite testing occurred, to: (1) investigate and assess sites where the Army Corps of Engineers has uncovered evidence of mustard gas or lewisite testing or where more than two veterans submitted claims in connection with exposure that were denied; and (2) report on experiments conducted by DOD during World War II to assess the effects of mustard gas and lewisite.

The VA shall: (1) investigate and assess VA actions to reach out to individuals who had been exposed in such experiments, the disability compensation claims that were filed, and the percentage of such claims that were denied; and (2) submit a comprehensive list of each location where such an experiment was conducted.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 29, 2016:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-707.
- **Jun 6, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 6, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.