

S 2105

A bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Nov 8, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Nov 8, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2105>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]

Party: Republican • **State:** AR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (18 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN] | D · IN | | Nov 8, 2017 |
| Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA] | D · MA | | Dec 20, 2017 |
| Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV] | R · NV | | Dec 21, 2017 |
| Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Jan 17, 2018 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jan 17, 2018 |
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | Jan 17, 2018 |
| Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID] | R · ID | | Jan 23, 2018 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Mar 1, 2018 |
| Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL] | D · IL | | Mar 1, 2018 |
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | Apr 12, 2018 |
| Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL] | R · FL | | Apr 26, 2018 |
| Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] | D · MT | | May 22, 2018 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Jun 4, 2018 |
| Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO] | R · MO | | Jul 10, 2018 |
| Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL] | D · FL | | Jul 10, 2018 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Jul 17, 2018 |
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jul 17, 2018 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI] | D · MI | | Aug 28, 2018 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred To | Nov 8, 2017 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 115 S 3175 | Related bill | Jun 28, 2018: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. |
| 115 HR 4843 | Identical bill | Jan 18, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. |

Summary (as of Nov 8, 2017)

This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that if it creates a presumption of service connection between the occurrence of a disease and exposure to a herbicide agent while serving in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era at a military base in Thailand, such presumption shall also apply to exposure to a herbicide agent while serving in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era at any military base in Thailand without regard to where on the base the veteran was located or what military job specialty the veteran performed.

The VA may provide to any spina bifida-affected child of a veteran who served on active duty in Thailand beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, and who was exposed to a herbicide agent during such service, the same health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance required to be paid to a similarly affected child of a Vietnam veteran.

Actions Timeline

- Nov 8, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- Nov 8, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.