

## HR 203

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Jan 3, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. (Feb 1, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/203>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (18 total)

| Cosponsor                             | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]      | R · FL        |      | Jan 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12]             | R · IL        |      | Jan 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Buchanan, Vern [R-FL-16]         | R · FL        |      | Jan 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Walorski, Jackie [R-IN-2]        | R · IN        |      | Jan 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Westerman, Bruce [R-AR-4]        | R · AR        |      | Jan 16, 2019 |
| Rep. Mast, Brian J. [R-FL-18]         | R · FL        |      | Jan 28, 2019 |
| Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]         | R · MO        |      | Feb 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Joyce, John [R-PA-13]            | R · PA        |      | Feb 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]   | R · NJ        |      | Feb 8, 2019  |
| Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]            | R · SC        |      | Feb 25, 2019 |
| Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5] | R · WA        |      | Feb 25, 2019 |
| Rep. Watkins, Steve [R-KS-2]          | R · KS        |      | Feb 25, 2019 |
| Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3]              | R · IN        |      | Mar 5, 2019  |
| Rep. Rogers, Harold [R-KY-5]          | R · KY        |      | Mar 5, 2019  |
| Rep. Balderson, Troy [R-OH-12]        | R · OH        |      | Mar 25, 2019 |
| Rep. Rose, John W. [R-TN-6]           | R · TN        |      | Mar 25, 2019 |
| Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]           | R · OH        |      | May 8, 2019  |
| Rep. McBath, Lucy [D-GA-6]            | D · GA        |      | May 8, 2019  |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                   | Chamber | Activity    | Date        |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | House   | Referred to | Feb 1, 2019 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

| Bill       | Relationship | Last Action   |
|------------|--------------|---|
| 116 HR 299 | Related bill | <b>Jun 25, 2019:</b> Became Public Law No: 116-23.                                  |
| 116 S 1195 | Related bill | <b>Apr 11, 2019:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. |
| 116 S 576  | Related bill | <b>Feb 27, 2019:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. |

### Summary (as of Jan 3, 2019)

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#### Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

This bill addresses certain health benefit and home loan programs for veterans.

Specifically, the bill extends the presumption of service-connection for certain diseases associated with herbicide (e.g., Agent Orange) exposure to veterans who served (1) offshore of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, or (2) in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971. Under a presumption of service-connection, specific disabilities or diseases diagnosed in certain veterans are presumed to have been caused by the circumstances of their military service. Health care benefits and disability compensation may then be awarded.

The bill extends eligibility for health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance to children with spina bifida who have at least one veteran parent who may have been exposed to an herbicide agent while serving in Thailand between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

Additionally, the bill revises the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guaranty program to adjust loan fee rates and eliminate the limit on the amount of a loan for which the VA may provide a guaranty of 25%. Under current law, these loan guarantees are subject to a limit on loan size determined by Freddie Mac.

The bill also waives loan fees for active duty Purple Heart recipients.

The VA shall permit a VA-approved appraiser to make a housing loan appraisal based solely on information gathered by a person with whom the appraiser has entered into an agreement for such services.

#### Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 1, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Jan 3, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 3, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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