

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

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

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

Summary (as of Jan 3, 2019)

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

- **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.