

S 2810

Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Nov 7, 2019

Current Status: Star Print ordered on the bill.

Latest Action: Star Print ordered on the bill. (Nov 20, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2810>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 7, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 7, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3866	Related bill	Aug 14, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 2019

This bill provides a presumption of service-connection for hearing-related issues in certain veterans for purposes of wartime disability compensation. Under a presumption of service-connection, specific conditions 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.

Per the bill, certain veterans with diagnosed hearing loss, tinnitus, or both shall be presumed to have incurred or aggravated such conditions during active military, naval, or air service.

This bill applies to veterans who (1) served in combat, or (2) were assigned to a military occupational specialty that likely exposed them to a sufficiently high level of acoustic trauma.

The bill also requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to adjust the schedule of rating disabilities to establish a minimum disability rating for a veteran who requires a hearing aid because of a service-connected disability.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 20, 2019:** Star Print ordered on the bill.
- **Nov 7, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 7, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.