

S 2950

Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Nov 21, 2019

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 542.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 542. (Sep 15, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2950>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]

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

Cosponsors (30 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Nov 21, 2019
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Jan 21, 2020
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jan 21, 2020
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jan 21, 2020
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jan 21, 2020
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jan 21, 2020
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Jan 21, 2020
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Jan 28, 2020
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jan 28, 2020
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 4, 2020
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 4, 2020
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 24, 2020
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Feb 24, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 24, 2020
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Feb 24, 2020
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Feb 25, 2020
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 25, 2020
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2020
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Feb 27, 2020
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 27, 2020
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 27, 2020
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Mar 11, 2020
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 11, 2020
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		May 13, 2020
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		May 13, 2020
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		May 13, 2020
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 13, 2020
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Sep 23, 2020
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Nov 30, 2020
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Dec 1, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 15, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2020

This bill establishes a presumption, for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits and wartime disability compensation, that a veteran was exposed to certain toxic substances, chemicals, and hazards from burn pits if such veteran served on active duty in a covered location during a specified time frame. A burn pit is an area used for burning solid waste in open air.

Specifically, the bill covers the following covered locations and corresponding time periods

- Iraq, between August 2, 1990, and February 28, 1991, as well as from March 19, 2003, until burn pits are no longer used in this location;
- Southwest Asia (including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar), from August 2, 1990, until burn pits are no longer used in these locations;
- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Yemen from September 11, 2001, until burn pits are no longer used in these locations; and
- other locations and time periods set forth by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry or determined by the VA.

Under the bill, if an exposed veteran submits insufficient evidence to establish a service-connection for purposes of disability compensation, the VA shall provide a medical examination and request medical opinions regarding a causal link between the disability and a toxic substance, chemical, or hazard.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 15, 2020:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Reported by Senator Moran with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Sep 15, 2020:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 542.
- **Aug 5, 2020:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Nov 21, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 21, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.