

S 3868

Pandemic Care for Burn Pits Exposure Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 2, 2020

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jun 2, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3868>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 2, 2020
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 2, 2020
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jun 2, 2020
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Jun 25, 2020
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 25, 2020
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2020
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 25, 2020
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 25, 2020
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jun 29, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 2, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6395	Related bill	Jan 2, 2021: Message on Senate action sent to the House.
116 HR 7684	Identical bill	Sep 30, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Pandemic Care for Burn Pits Exposure Act of 2020

This bill requires the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that the first health assessment conducted for a member of the Armed Forces or veteran after such an individual tests positive for a virus certified as a pandemic includes an evaluation of whether the individual has been (1) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used, or (2) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals or contaminants relating to service in the Armed Forces. A burn pit is an area used for burning solid waste in open air without equipment.

If such an evaluation establishes that an individual was based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used, or that the individual was exposed to toxic airborne chemicals or contaminants, the individual must be enrolled in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry unless they opt out of enrollment.

The VA's Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence must conduct a study on the health impacts of infection with a virus designated as a global pandemic, including the coronavirus (i.e., the virus that causes COVID-19), to members of the Armed Forces and veterans who have been exposed to open burn pits and other toxic exposures. The study must be analyzed to assist in preparation for potential future pandemics.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 2, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 2, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.