

## HR 4086

Protection for Veterans' Burn Pit Exposure Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

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

**Introduced:** Jul 26, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Aug 22, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4086>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]

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

### Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jul 26, 2019
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Sep 11, 2019
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Sep 11, 2019
Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Oct 22, 2019
Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6]	R · KY		Dec 10, 2019
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Dec 16, 2019
Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3]	D · IA		Jan 24, 2020
Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Feb 6, 2020
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Nov 5, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 29, 2019
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 22, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Protection for Veterans' Burn Pit Exposure Act of 2019

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to make a determination, after receipt of a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) titled *Respiratory Health Effects of Airborne Hazards Exposures in the Southwest Asia Theater of Military Operations*, on whether a positive association exists between (1) the exposure of humans to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open air burn pits (areas used for burning solid waste in open air without equipment) and other airborne hazards, and (2) the occurrence of a diagnosed illness in humans.

Upon determination of a positive association, the VA must prescribe regulations providing that (1) a presumption of service-connection is warranted for certain illnesses manifesting in certain time frames, and (2) covered veterans shall be presumed to have been exposed to toxic airborne chemicals caused by open burn pits unless conclusive evidence proves otherwise. Covered veterans are veterans who were deployed on or after September 11, 2001, in support of a contingency operation and based at a location where an open burn pit was used.

If the VA determines a presumption of service-connection is not warranted, a notice must be published and include an explanation of the basis for the determination. The bill also requires the VA to remove previous presumptions if evidence indicates such presumption is not warranted.

The Department of Defense must provide NASEM with access to information it requests for the study on *Respiratory Health Effects of Airborne Hazards Exposures in the Southwest Asia Theater of Military Operations*.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Aug 22, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 29, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Jul 26, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 26, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.