

HR 7687

Protecting Firefighters from PFAS Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Jul 20, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. (Jul 21, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7687>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MI • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jul 20, 2020
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8]	D · MI		Jul 20, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 20, 2020
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 21, 2020
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 20, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2102	Related bill	Apr 29, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Protecting Firefighters from PFAS Act

This bill addresses firefighter and veteran exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS. These substances are man-made and may have adverse human health effects. A variety of products contain the compounds (e.g., weatherproof clothing).

The bill authorizes the use of pre-disaster hazard mitigation funding for the remediation of PFAS at fire training facilities.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology in the Department of Commerce must commence a study and report on the contents and composition of new and unused personal protective equipment worn by firefighters in relation to PFAS.

For certain conditions associated with exposure to PFAS, the bill provides eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital care and medical services to veterans who served on active duty at military installations at which individuals were exposed to PFAS. Service by veterans as reservists or civilian firefighters shall be considered active duty service for eligibility purposes if such service occurred during a period specified by the VA on the applicable military installations. The bill also provides eligibility for VA hospital care and medical services for exposure-related conditions to the family members of such veterans and civilian firefighters.

The bill establishes a presumption of service-connection for specified illnesses or diseases related to PFAS exposure that manifest in veterans (including reservists or veterans serving as civilian firefighters) who served on active duty at a military installation where they were exposed to PFAS. 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.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 21, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
- **Jul 20, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 20, 2020:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.