

## S 1039

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation for disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans, and for other purposes.

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Mar 25, 2021

**Current Status:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. (Apr 28, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1039>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Apr 22, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Apr 28, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
<a href="#">117 S 3373</a>	Related bill	<b>Aug 10, 2022:</b> Became Public Law No: 117-168.
<a href="#">117 HR 3967</a>	Related bill	<b>Jun 16, 2022:</b> Message on Senate action sent to the House.

This bill addresses disability compensation and care issues for Persian Gulf War veterans.

First, the bill expands eligibility for disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to Persian Gulf War veterans who have a qualifying chronic disability that became manifest to any degree at any time.

Next, the VA must develop a Disability Benefits Questionnaire to be used by health care personnel to identify Gulf War illness if a Persian Gulf veteran presents with any one symptom associated with such illness.

The bill also expands who qualifies as a Persian Gulf veteran by including those who served in Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, or Jordan during the Persian Gulf War. Under current law, *Persian Gulf veteran* refers only to individuals who served on active duty during the Persian Gulf War in particular areas of the Arabian Peninsula.

Finally, the VA must ensure its health care personnel are appropriately trained to provide care to Persian Gulf veterans.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 28, 2021:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Mar 25, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 25, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.