

S 1277

Lethal Means Safety Training Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 21, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Apr 21, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1277>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Apr 21, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Veterans' Affairs Committee | Senate | Referred To | Apr 21, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 117 HR 2749 | Related bill | Jul 14, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

Lethal Means Safety Training Act

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to update its Lethal Means Safety and Suicide Prevention training course at least once a year to ensure it is culturally appropriate and uses best practices identified by subject matter experts (e.g., veterans service organizations).

The bill requires certain VA employees and care providers to take the most recently updated version of the training course within 90 days after the person is hired, agrees to furnish care, or receives support and at least annually thereafter. Specifically, the bill requires the following categories of VA employees or care providers to take the training course:

- employees of the Veterans Health Administration or Veterans Benefits Administration who regularly interact with veterans,
- compensation and pension examiners,
- employees of Vet Centers or vocational rehabilitation facilities,
- employees of Veterans Community Care Providers who provide care to veterans, and
- caregivers receiving support under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers or the Program of General Caregiver Support Services.

The VA must publish the training course on a publicly available VA website. Additionally, the VA must publish a report on its website that includes the percentage of individuals in each category who have completed such training.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 21, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 21, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.