

S 437

Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 24, 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/437>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]

Party: Republican • **State:** AK • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (38 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Feb 24, 2021
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Mar 1, 2021
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 1, 2021
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 1, 2021
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Mar 1, 2021
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 1, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 1, 2021
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 5, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 5, 2021
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Hagerty, Bill [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 23, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 23, 2021
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 25, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 12, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Apr 12, 2021
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Apr 12, 2021
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Apr 20, 2021
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 10, 2021
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		May 10, 2021
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		May 13, 2021
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		May 17, 2021
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		May 17, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 17, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 25, 2021
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Oct 26, 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
117 HR 2436	Related bill	Jul 14, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Summary (as of Feb 24, 2021)

Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to concede, for the purposes of health care benefits and wartime disability compensation, that a veteran was exposed to certain toxic substances, chemicals, and hazards from burn pits if such veteran served on active duty in a covered location during a specified time frame (unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed during such service). A burn pit is an area used for burning solid waste in open air without equipment.

Specifically, the bill covers the following locations and corresponding time periods:

- Iraq between August 2, 1990, and February 28, 1991, as well as from March 19, 2003, until burn pits are no longer used in this location;
- Southwest Asia (including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar) from August 2, 1990, until burn pits are no longer used in these locations; and
- Afghanistan, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, and Djibouti from September 11, 2001, until burn pits are no longer used in these locations.

Under the bill, if an exposed veteran submits insufficient evidence to establish a service-connection for purposes of disability compensation, the VA shall provide a medical examination and request a medical opinion regarding a causal link between the disability and a toxin, chemical, or hazard.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 28, 2021:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.
- **Feb 24, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 24, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.