

HR 5026

Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Aug 13, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. (Sep 9, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5026>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Newman, Marie [D-IL-3]

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

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Salazar, Maria Elvira [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Aug 13, 2021
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Sep 14, 2021
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Sep 14, 2021
Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3]	D · IA		Nov 4, 2021
Rep. Garbarino, Andrew R. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Nov 4, 2021
Rep. Tiffany, Thomas P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Nov 4, 2021
Rep. Feenstra, Randy [R-IA-4]	R · IA		Dec 2, 2021
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Dec 2, 2021
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2022
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Mar 8, 2022
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Mar 8, 2022
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Jun 15, 2022
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Jul 26, 2022
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Aug 26, 2022
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Sep 21, 2022
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 9, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 4046	Related bill	Apr 7, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary (as of Aug 13, 2021)

Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021

This bill establishes a presumption of service-connection for specified conditions associated with active duty service in or near the Panama Canal Zone (zone) from January 1, 1958, through the latter of December 31, 1999, or the date on which the last service member departed from duty in the zone. 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.

The presumption of service-connection applies to illnesses listed in the bill (e.g., Hodgkin's disease) or those that (1) have a positive association with exposure to an herbicide agent that is known or presumed to be associated with service in the zone during the specified time period, and (2) become manifest in a veteran who served in the zone during the specified time period and was exposed to an herbicide agent during such service.

The Department of Veterans Affairs must prescribe regulations providing for a presumption of service-connection whenever there is a determination that a positive association exists between the exposure to an herbicide agent known or presumed to be associated with service in or near the zone and the occurrence of an illness in humans.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Aug 13, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Aug 13, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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