AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–57
OFFERED BY MS. GABBARD OF HAWAII

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following new section:

SEC. 7__. NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS REGARDING REPORTED CASES OF BURN PIT EXPOSURE.

(a) QUARTERLY NOTIFICATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—On a quarterly basis, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each case of burn pit exposure reported during the previous quarter. Each such report shall include, with respect to such cases, the following:

(A) Notice of the case, including the medical facility at which the case was reported.

(B) Notice of, as available—

(i) the enrollment status of the covered veteran with respect to the patient enrollment under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code;

(ii) a summary of all health care visits by the covered veteran at the medical facil-
ity at which the case was reported that are related to the case;

(iii) the demographics of the covered veteran, including age, sex, and race;

(iv) identification of any non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care benefits that the covered veteran receives;

(v) the Armed Force in which the covered veteran served and the rank of the covered veteran;

(vi) the period in which the covered veteran served;

(vii) each location of an open burn pit from which the covered veteran was exposed to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits during such service;

(viii) the medical diagnoses of the covered veteran and the treatment provided to the veteran; and

(ix) whether the covered veteran is registered in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

(2) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the reports submitted under
paragraph (1) do not include the identity of covered
veterans or contain other personally identifiable
data.

(b) Annual Report on Cases.—

(1) In General.—Not later than 180 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
ually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall
submit to the appropriate congressional committees
a report detailing the following:

   (A) The total number of covered veterans.

   (B) The total number of claims for dis-
ability compensation under chapter 11 of title
38, United States Code, approved and denied
by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with re-
spect to covered veterans, and for each such de-
nial, the rationale of the denial.

   (C) A comprehensive list of—

       (i) the conditions for which covered
veterans seek treatment; and

       (ii) the locations of the open burn pits
to which the covered veterans were exposed
to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes
caused by open burn pits.
(D) Identification of any illnesses relating to exposure to open burn pits which formed the basis for the Secretary to award benefits, including but not limited to, entitlement to service connection or an increase in disability rating.

(E) Any updates or trends with respect to the information described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) that the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED IN FIRST REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in the first report under paragraph (1) notifications containing the information specified in subsection (a)(1) with respect to reported cases of burn pit exposure made during the period beginning January 1, 1990, and ending on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) INFORMATION REGARDING REGISTRY.—Section 201(a) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) INFORMATION.—

“(A) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall ensure that a medical professional of the Department
of Veterans Affairs informs a veteran of the registry under paragraph (1) if the veteran presents at a medical facility of the Department for treatment that the veteran describes as being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

“(B) DISPLAY.—In making information public regarding the number of participants in the registry under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall display such numbers by both State and by congressional district.”.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing an assessment of the effectiveness of any memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement entered into by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to—

(1) the processing of reported cases of burn pit exposure; and

(2) the coordination of care and provision of health care relating to such cases at medical facili-
ties of the Department and at non-Department facilities.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry” means the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(3) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran described in paragraph (5).

(4) The term “open burn pit” has the meaning given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).
(5) The term “reported case of burn pit exposure” means each instance in which a veteran presents at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs (or in a non-Department facility pursuant to section 1703 or 1703A of title 38, United States Code) for treatment that the veteran describes as being related to, or ancillary to, the exposure of the veteran to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits at any time while serving in the Armed Forces.