Page 21, strike lines 5 through 7 and insert the following:

“(4)(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B), each member of the Committee shall be appointed for a two-year term, and may serve not more than three successive terms.

“(B) With respect to the five members who are initially appointed by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall determine the length of the term of each such member in a manner that ensures the expiration of the terms on a staggered basis.”.

Page 33, after line 6, insert the following new subsection:

(c) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in section 1172(a)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be construed so as to require the advice and consent of the Senate in the appointment of members of the Formal Advisory Committee on Toxic Exposure.
Page 41, line 8, insert “OR THULE, GREENLAND,” after “SPAIN,.”

Page 41, line 13, insert “or Thule” after “Palomares”.

Page 41, line 14, insert “OR THULE” after “PALOMARES”.

Page 41, line 16, strike “clause” and insert “clauses”.

Page 41, after line 23, add the following new clause:

“(vii) Onsite participation in the response effort following the on-board fire and crash of a United States Air Force B–52 bomber that caused the release of four thermonuclear weapons in the vicinity of Thule Air Force Base, Greenland, during the period beginning January 21, 1968, and ending September 25, 1968.”.

Add at the end of title VII the following new sections:

SEC. 700. VETERANS TOXIC EXPOSURES FUND.

Chapter 3 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
§ 324. Veterans Toxic Exposures Fund

“(a) Establishment.—There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the “Veterans Toxic Exposures Fund” (the “Fund”), to be administered through the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide for investment in the delivery of veterans’ health care, research, and benefits associated with hazardous exposure in service.

“(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund for fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year such sums as are necessary to increase funding, over the fiscal year 2021 level for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, for any expenses incident to the delivery of veterans’ health care and benefits associated with exposure to environmental hazards in service, including administrative expenses, such as claims processing and appeals, and for medical research related to hazardous exposures. Amounts appropriated to the Fund pursuant to this subsection shall be counted as direct spending under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 and any other Act.

“(c) Estimates for Congressional Consideration.—The Secretary shall include in documents submitted to Congress in support of the President’s budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United
States Code, detailed estimates of the sums described in subsection (b) for the applicable fiscal year.

“(d) PROCEDURES FOR ESTIMATES.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, may establish policies and procedures for developing the annual detailed estimates required in subsection (e).”.

SEC. 7_. AUTHORIZATION OF ELECTRONIC NOTICE IN CLAIMS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) By striking section 5100 and inserting the following:

“§ 5100. Definitions

“In this chapter:

“(1) The term ‘claimant’ means any individual applying for, or submitting a claim for, any benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary.

“(2) The term ‘notice’ means a communication issued through means (including electronic means) prescribed by the Secretary.”.

(2) In section 5104, by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) The Secretary may provide notice under subsection (a) electronically if a claimant (or the claimant’s
representative) elects to receive such notice electronically. A claimant (or the claimant’s representative) may revoke such an election at any time, by means prescribed by the Secretary.

“(d) The Secretary shall annually—

“(1) solicit recommendations from stakeholders on how to improve notice under this section; and

“(2) publish such recommendations on a publicly available website of the Department.”.

(3) In section 5104B(c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “in writing” and inserting “to the claimant (and any representative of such claimant)”.

(4) In section 7104—

(A) in the heading, by adding “; decisions; notice” at the end; and

(B) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) After reaching a decision on an appeal, the Board shall promptly issue notice (as that term is defined in section 5100 of this title) of such decision to the following:

“(1) The appellant.

“(2) Any other party with a right to notice of such decision.
“(3) Any authorized representative of the appellant or party described in paragraph (2).

“(f) The Secretary may provide notice under subsection (e) electronically if a claimant (or the claimant’s representative) elects to receive such notice electronically. A claimant (or the claimant’s representative) may revoke such an election at any time, by means prescribed by the Secretary.”.

(5) In section 7105(b)(1)(A), by striking “mailing” and inserting “issuance”.

(6) In section 7105A(a), by striking “mailed” and inserting “issued”.

(7) In section 7266(a), by striking “mailed” and inserting “issued”.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EXPANSION OF CLAIMS AUTOMATION.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 to support expected increased claims processing for newly eligible veterans pursuant to this Act and the amendments made by this Act by—

(1) supporting the automation of processing claims by the Veterans Benefits Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
(2) adding self-service features to the system by which individuals file claims;

(3) removing duplicative efforts regarding the processing of claims; and

(4) reducing the dependency of the Department on the legacy claim system.