

**AMENDMENT TO  
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-33  
OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS**

Strike page 1, line 1, and all that follows through page 80, line 7, and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Health Care for Burn  
3 Pit Veterans Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE  
5 FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
6 FOR CERTAIN VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC  
7 SUBSTANCES.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1710(e)(3) of title 38,  
9 United States Code, is amended—

10           (1) in subparagraph (A)—

11               (A) by striking “January 27, 2003” and  
12               inserting “September 11, 2001”; and

13               (B) by striking “five-year period” and in-  
14               serting “ten-year period”;

15           (2) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as  
16 follows:

17               “(B) With respect to a veteran described in  
18 paragraph (1)(D) who was discharged or released

1 from the active military, naval, air, or space service  
2 after September 11, 2001, and before October 1,  
3 2013, but did not enroll to receive such hospital  
4 care, medical services, or nursing home care under  
5 such paragraph pursuant to subparagraph (A) be-  
6 fore October 1, 2022, the one-year period beginning  
7 on October 1, 2022.”; and

8 (3) by striking subparagraph (C).

9 (b) CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE.—Section  
10 1710(e)(1)(D) of such title is amended by inserting after  
11 “Persian Gulf War” the following: “(including any veteran  
12 who, in connection with service during such period, re-  
13 ceived the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Service  
14 Specific Expeditionary Medal, Combat Era Specific Expe-  
15 ditionary Medal, Campaign Specific Medal, or any other  
16 combat theater award established by a Federal statute or  
17 an Executive Order)”.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2024, the  
19 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Commit-  
20 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives  
21 and the Senate a report on—

22 (1) the number of veterans who enrolled in the  
23 system of annual patient enrollment of the Depart-  
24 ment of Veterans Affairs established and operated  
25 under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States

1 Code, to receive care pursuant to eligibility under  
2 subparagraph (B) of section 1710(e)(3) of such title,  
3 as amended by subsection (a)(2); and

4 (2) of the veterans described in paragraph (1),  
5 the number of such veterans who reported a health  
6 concern related to exposure to a toxic substance or  
7 radiation.

8 (d) OUTREACH PLAN.—Not later than December 1,  
9 2022, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on  
10 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
11 Senate a plan to conduct outreach to veterans described  
12 in subparagraph (B) of section 1710(e)(3) of title 38,  
13 United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(2), to  
14 notify such veterans of their eligibility for hospital care,  
15 medical services, or nursing home care under such sub-  
16 paragraph.

17 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-  
18 ments made by this section shall take effect on October  
19 1, 2022.

20 **SEC. 3. INCORPORATION OF TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING**  
21 **FOR VETERANS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 90 days  
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
24 of Veterans Affairs shall incorporate a screening to help  
25 determine potential exposures to toxic substances during

1 active military, naval, air, or space service as part of a  
2 health care screening furnished by the Secretary to vet-  
3 erans enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment  
4 of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and op-  
5 erated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code,  
6 to improve understanding by the Department of exposures  
7 of veterans to toxic substances while serving in the Armed  
8 Forces.

9 (b) TIMING.—The Secretary shall ensure that a vet-  
10 eran described in subsection (a) completes the screening  
11 required under such subsection not less frequently than  
12 once every five years.

13 (c) DETERMINATION OF QUESTIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The questions included in  
15 the screening required under subsection (a) shall be  
16 determined by the Secretary with input from medical  
17 professionals.

18 (2) SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.—At a minimum, the  
19 screening required under subsection (a) shall, with  
20 respect to a veteran, include—

21 (A) a question about the potential exposure  
22 of the veteran to an open burn pit; and

23 (B) a question regarding exposures that  
24 are commonly associated with service in the  
25 Armed Forces.

1           (3) OPEN BURN PIT DEFINED.—In this sub-  
2           section, the term “open burn pit” means an area of  
3           land that—

4                   (A) is designated by the Secretary of De-  
5                   fense to be used for disposing solid waste by  
6                   burning in the outdoor air; and

7                   (B) does not contain a commercially manu-  
8                   factured incinerator or other equipment specifi-  
9                   cally designed and manufactured for the burn-  
10                  ing of solid waste.

11          (d) PRINT MATERIAL.—In developing the screening  
12          established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall en-  
13          sure that print materials complementary to such screening  
14          that outline related resources for veterans are available at  
15          each medical center of the Department to veterans who  
16          may not have access to the internet.

17          (e) SCREENING UPDATES.—The Secretary shall con-  
18          sider updates to the content of the screening required  
19          under subsection (a) not less frequently than biennially to  
20          ensure the screening contains the most current informa-  
21          tion.

22          (f) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR, OR SPACE SERV-  
23          ICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “active military,  
24          naval, air, or space service” has the meaning given that  
25          term in section 101(24) of title 38, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 4. TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
2 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH RESPECT TO**  
3 **VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.**

4 (a) HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of  
5 Veterans Affairs shall provide to health care personnel of  
6 the Department of Veterans Affairs education and train-  
7 ing to identify, treat, and assess the impact on veterans  
8 of illnesses related to exposure to toxic substances and in-  
9 form such personnel of how to ask for additional informa-  
10 tion from veterans regarding different exposures.

11 (b) BENEFITS PERSONNEL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall incor-  
13 porate a training program for processors of claims  
14 under the laws administered by the Secretary who  
15 review claims for disability benefits relating to serv-  
16 ice-connected disabilities based on exposure to toxic  
17 substances.

18 (2) ANNUAL TRAINING.—Training provided to  
19 processors under paragraph (1) shall be provided not  
20 less frequently than annually.

21 **SEC. 5. ANALYSIS AND REPORT ON TREATMENT OF VET-**  
22 **ERANS FOR MEDICAL CONDITIONS RELATED**  
23 **TO TOXIC EXPOSURE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
25 shall analyze, on a continuous basis, all clinical data  
26 that—

1           (1) is obtained by the Department of Veterans  
2       Affairs in connection with hospital care, medical  
3       services, and nursing home care furnished under sec-  
4       tion 1710(a)(2)(F) of title 38, United States Code;  
5       and

6           (2) is likely to be scientifically useful in deter-  
7       mining the association, if any, between the medical  
8       condition of a veteran and the exposure of the vet-  
9       eran to a toxic substance.

10       (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after  
11      the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-  
12      after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on  
13      Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
14      Senate a report containing—

15           (1) the aggregate data compiled under sub-  
16      section (a);

17           (2) an analysis of such data;

18           (3) a description of the types and incidences of  
19      medical conditions identified by the Department  
20      under such subsection;

21           (4) the explanation of the Secretary for the in-  
22      cidence of such medical conditions and other expla-  
23      nations for the incidence of such conditions as the  
24      Secretary considers reasonable; and

1           (5) the views of the Secretary on the scientific  
2           validity of drawing conclusions from the incidence of  
3           such medical conditions, as evidenced by the data  
4           compiled under subsection (a), regarding any asso-  
5           ciation between such conditions and exposure to a  
6           toxic substance.

7   **SEC. 6. ANALYSIS RELATING TO MORTALITY OF VETERANS**

8                           **WHO SERVED IN SOUTHWEST ASIA.**

9           (a) ANALYSIS.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days  
11           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
12           retary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the  
13           Secretary of Defense, shall conduct an updated anal-  
14           ysis of total and respiratory disease mortality in cov-  
15           ered veterans.

16           (2) ELEMENTS.—The analysis required by  
17           paragraph (1) shall include, to the extent prac-  
18           ticable, the following with respect to each covered  
19           veteran:

20                           (A) Metrics of airborne exposures.

21                           (B) The location and timing of deploy-  
22                           ments of the veteran.

23                           (C) The military occupational specialty of  
24                           the veteran.



1 (D) The Armed Force in which the veteran  
2 served.

3 (E) Pre-existing health status of the vet-  
4 eran, including with respect to asthma.

5 (F) Relevant personal information of the  
6 veteran, including cigarette and e-cigarette  
7 smoking history, diet, sex, gender, age, race,  
8 and ethnicity.

9 (b) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,  
10 the term “covered veteran” means any veteran who—

11 (1) on or after August 2, 1990, served on active  
12 duty in—

13 (A) Bahrain;

14 (B) Iraq;

15 (C) Kuwait;

16 (D) Oman;

17 (E) Qatar;

18 (F) Saudi Arabia;

19 (G) Somalia; or

20 (H) the United Arab Emirates; or

21 (2) on or after September 11, 2001, served on  
22 active duty in—

23 (A) Afghanistan;

24 (B) Djibouti;

25 (C) Egypt;

1 (D) Jordan;

2 (E) Lebanon;

3 (F) Syria; or

4 (G) Yemen.

5 **SEC. 7. STUDY ON HEALTH TRENDS OF POST 9/11 VET-**  
6 **ERANS.**

7 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct an  
8 epidemiological study on the health trends of veterans who  
9 served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001.

10 **SEC. 8. STUDY ON CANCER RATES AMONG VETERANS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
12 shall conduct a study on the incidence of cancer in vet-  
13 erans to determine trends in the rates of the incidence  
14 of cancer in veterans.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection  
16 (a) shall assess, with respect to each veteran included in  
17 the study, the following:

18 (1) The age of the veteran.

19 (2) The period of service and length of service  
20 of the veteran in the Armed Forces.

21 (3) The military occupational specialty or spe-  
22 cialties of the veteran.

23 (4) The gender of the veteran.

24 (5) The type or types of cancer that the veteran  
25 has.

1 **SEC. 9. PUBLICATION OF LIST OF RESOURCES OF DEPART-**  
2 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VETERANS**  
3 **EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND OUT-**  
4 **REACH PROGRAM FOR SUCH VETERANS AND**  
5 **CAREGIVERS AND SURVIVORS OF SUCH VET-**  
6 **ERANS.**

7 (a) PUBLICATION OF LIST OF RESOURCES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-  
10 nually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
11 shall publish a list of resources of the Department  
12 of Veterans Affairs for—

13 (A) veterans who were exposed to toxic  
14 substances;

15 (B) families and caregivers of such vet-  
16 erans; and

17 (C) survivors of such veterans who are re-  
18 ceiving death benefits under the laws adminis-  
19 tered by the Secretary.

20 (2) UPDATE.—The Secretary shall periodically  
21 update the list published under paragraph (1).

22 (b) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall develop, with  
23 input from the community, an informative outreach pro-  
24 gram for veterans on illnesses that may be related to expo-  
25 sure to toxic substances, including outreach with respect  
26 to benefits and support programs.

1 **SEC. 10. REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL LONGITUDINAL EXPO-**  
2 **SURE RECORD.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the  
4 date on which the Individual Longitudinal Exposure  
5 Record achieves full operational capability, the Secretary  
6 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate con-  
7 gressional committees a report on the data quality of the  
8 Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record and the useful-  
9 ness of the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record in  
10 supporting veterans in receiving health care and benefits  
11 from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection  
13 (a) shall include the following:

14 (1) An identification of exposures to toxic sub-  
15 stances that may not be fully captured by the cur-  
16 rent systems for environmental and occupational  
17 health monitoring and recommendations for how to  
18 improve those systems.

19 (2) An analysis of the quality of the location  
20 data in determining exposures of veterans to toxic  
21 substances and recommendations for how to improve  
22 the quality of that location data.

23 (3) Recommendations on how to improve the  
24 usefulness of the Individual Longitudinal Exposure  
25 Record.

26 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
2       mittees” means—

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

6           (B) the Committee on Armed Services and  
7       the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-  
8       ate.

9           (2) The term “Individual Longitudinal Expo-  
10       sure Record” includes any pilot program or other  
11       program used by the Department of Veterans Af-  
12       fairs or the Department of Defense to track how  
13       members of the Armed Forces or veterans have been  
14       exposed to various occupational or environmental  
15       hazards.

