

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 71

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with Hepatitis C, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Ms. SNOWE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with Hepatitis C, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR**
4 **CERTAIN VETERANS WITH HEPATITIS C.**

5 (a) PRESUMPTION.—Section 1112 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-
7 ing:

8 “(d)(1) For the purposes of section 1110 of this title,
9 and subject to the provisions of section 1113 of this title,
10 the disease Hepatitis C becoming manifest to a degree of

1 10 percent or more in any veteran described in paragraph
2 (2) after active military, naval, or air service covered by
3 that paragraph shall be considered to have been incurred
4 in or aggravated by such service, notwithstanding that
5 there is no record of evidence of that disease during such
6 service.

7 “(2) Paragraph (1) applies in the case of the follow-
8 ing:

9 “(A) Veterans who received during a period of
10 service before December 31, 1992, a transfusion of
11 blood or blood products.

12 “(B) Veterans who were exposed to blood on or
13 through the skin or a mucous membrane during a
14 period of service.

15 “(C) Veterans who underwent hemodialysis dur-
16 ing a period of service.

17 “(D) Veterans who underwent tattooing, body
18 piercing, or acupuncture during a period of service.

19 “(E) Veterans diagnosed with unexplained liver
20 disease during a period of service.

21 “(F) Veterans who experienced an unexplained
22 liver dysfunction value or test during a period of
23 service.

24 “(G) Veterans who served in a health-care posi-
25 tion or specialty during a period of service under

1 such circumstances as the Secretary shall prescribe
2 for purposes of this subsection.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act. No benefit may be paid or provided by
6 reason of that amendment for any period before such date.

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