

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 373

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on hearing loss, tinnitus, and noise pollution due to small arms fire.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Mr. HATCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on hearing loss, tinnitus, and noise pollution due to small arms fire.

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. REPORT ON HEARING LOSS, TINNITUS, AND**
4 **NOISE POLLUTION DUE TO SMALL ARMS**
5 **FIRE.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that hearing loss, tinnitus, and noise pollution due
8 to small arms fire has a detrimental impact on the readi-
9 ness and budget of the Department of Defense.

10 (b) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on
4 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-
5 resentatives (and the Committee on Appropriations
6 of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations
7 of the House of Representatives upon the request of
8 either committee) and the President pro tempore of
9 the Senate, a report on hearing loss, tinnitus, and
10 noise pollution due to small arms fire.

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
12 graph (1) shall include the following:

13 (A) A verification and validation of the re-
14 sults included in published findings on hearing
15 loss and tinnitus due to small arms fire (includ-
16 ing the “Clinical Study Design of Noise-In-
17 duced Hearing Loss in Marine Recruits” pub-
18 lished by E.A. Williams (née Edelstein)).

19 (B) A description of the impact on the De-
20 partment of Defense of noise pollution and
21 noise ordinance requirements, as set forth
22 under title IV of the Clean Air Act (relating to
23 noise pollution) (42 U.S.C. 7641 et seq.), for
24 small arms fire (including the impact on train-

1 ing ranges, training schedules, operational read-
2 iness, and mission parameters).

3 (C) Data on the severity and rates of
4 noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus experi-
5 enced by personnel of the Department due to
6 small arms fire in training and operational envi-
7 ronments, including costs currently incurred by
8 the health care systems of the Department of
9 Defense and the Department of Veterans Af-
10 fairs to treat noise-induced hearing loss and
11 tinnitus.

12 (D) A description of alternative methods
13 and strategies currently being employed by the
14 Department of Defense, as well as alternative
15 methods, technologies, and techniques being
16 considered, for the mitigation of hearing loss,
17 tinnitus, and noise pollution due to small arms
18 fire.

19 (E) A description of current mitigation
20 strategies available to reduce hearing loss,
21 tinnitus, and noise pollution as a whole and not
22 as separate issues.

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