

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1563

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2019

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Janey Ensminger Act
5 of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF ILLNESSES AND CONDITIONS RELATING**
2 **TO VETERANS STATIONED AT CAMP LE-**
3 **JEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND THEIR FAM-**
4 **ILY MEMBERS.**

5 (a) REVIEW AND PUBLICATION OF ILLNESS OR CON-
6 DITION.—Part P of title III of the Public Health Service
7 Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at
8 the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 399V-7. REVIEW AND PUBLICATION OF ILLNESSES**
10 **AND CONDITIONS.**

11 “Consistent with section 104(i) of the Comprehensive
12 Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
13 of 1980, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
14 of this section, and not less frequently than once every
15 3 years thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Ad-
16 ministrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Dis-
17 ease Registry, shall—

18 “(1)(A) review the scientific literature relevant
19 to the relationship between the employment or resi-
20 dence of individuals at Camp Lejeune, North Caro-
21 lina, for not fewer than 30 days during the period
22 beginning on August 1, 1953, and ending on Decem-
23 ber 21, 1987, and specific illnesses or conditions in-
24 curred by those individuals;

25 “(B) determine each illness or condition for
26 which there is evidence that exposure to a toxic sub-

1 stance at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during the
2 period specific in subparagraph (A) may be a cause
3 of the illness or condition; and

4 “(C) with respect to each illness or condition
5 for which a determination has been made under sub-
6 paragraph (B), categorize the evidence of the con-
7 nection of the illness or condition to exposure de-
8 scribed in that subparagraph as—

9 “(i) sufficient to conclude with reasonable
10 confidence that the exposure is a cause of the
11 illness or condition;

12 “(ii) modest supporting causation, but not
13 sufficient to conclude with reasonable con-
14 fidence that exposure is a cause of the illness
15 or condition; or

16 “(iii) no more than limited supporting cau-
17 sation;

18 “(2) publish in the Federal Register and on the
19 internet website of the Department of Health and
20 Human Services—

21 “(A) a list of each illness or condition for
22 which a determination has been made under
23 paragraph (1)(B), including the categorization
24 of the evidence of causal connection relating to

1 the illness or condition under paragraph (1)(C);
 2 and

3 “(B) the bibliographic citations for all lit-
 4 erature reviewed under paragraph (1) for each
 5 illness or condition listed under such paragraph;
 6 and

7 “(3) update the list under paragraph (2), as ap-
 8 plicable, to add an illness or condition for which a
 9 determination has been made under paragraph
 10 (1)(B), including the categorization of the evidence
 11 of causal connection relating to the illness or condi-
 12 tion under paragraph (1)(C), since such list was last
 13 updated consistent with the requirements of this sec-
 14 tion.”.

15 (b) ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE FROM DEPART-
 16 MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1710(e)(1)(F) of
 18 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

19 (A) by redesignating clauses (i) through
 20 (xv) as subclauses (I) through (XV), respec-
 21 tively;

22 (B) by striking “(F) Subject to” and in-
 23 serting “(F)(i) Subject to”;

24 (C) by striking “any of the following” and
 25 inserting “any of the illnesses or conditions for

1 which the evidence of connection of the illness
2 or condition to exposure to a toxic substance at
3 Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during such pe-
4 riod is categorized as sufficient or modest in the
5 most recent list published under section 399V-
6 7(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, which
7 may include any of the following”;

8 (D) by adding at the end the following new
9 clause:

10 “(ii) For the purposes of ensuring continuation of
11 care, any veteran who has been furnished hospital care
12 or medical services under this subparagraph for an illness
13 or condition shall remain eligible for hospital care or med-
14 ical services for such illness or condition notwithstanding
15 that the evidence of connection of such illness or condition
16 to exposure to a toxic substance at Camp Lejeune, North
17 Carolina, during the period described in clause (i) is not
18 categorized as sufficient or modest in the most recent list
19 published under section 399V-7(a)(2) of the Public
20 Health Service Act.”.

21 (2) FAMILY MEMBERS.—Section 1787 of such
22 title is amended by adding at the end the following
23 new subsection:

24 “(c) CONTINUATION OF CARE.—For the purposes of
25 ensuring continuation of care, any individual who has been

1 furnished hospital care or medical services under this sec-
2 tion for an illness or condition shall remain eligible for
3 hospital care or medical services for such illness or condi-
4 tion notwithstanding that the illness or condition is no
5 longer described in section 1710(e)(1)(F) of this title.”.

6 (3) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS FOR PROGRAM.—

7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each
8 of fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs shall transfer \$2,000,000 from
10 amounts made available to the Department of Vet-
11 erans Affairs for medical support and compliance to
12 the Chief Business Office and Financial Services
13 Center of the Department to be used to continue
14 building and enhancing the claims processing sys-
15 tem, eligibility system, and web portal for the Camp
16 Lejeune Family Member Program of the Depart-
17 ment.

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