

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations.

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 “PFAS Registry Act
5 of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGISTRY OF INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO PER- AND**
2 **POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON MILI-**
3 **TARY INSTALLATIONS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTRY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall—

8 (A) establish and maintain a registry for
9 eligible individuals who may have been exposed
10 to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (in this
11 section referred to as “PFAS”) due to the envi-
12 ronmental release of aqueous film-forming foam
13 (in this section referred to as “AFFF”) on mili-
14 tary installations to meet the requirements of
15 military specification MIL-F-24385F;

16 (B) include any information in such reg-
17 istry that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs de-
18 termines necessary to ascertain and monitor the
19 health effects of the exposure of members of the
20 Armed Forces to PFAS associated with AFFF;

21 (C) develop a public information campaign
22 to inform eligible individuals about the registry,
23 including how to register and the benefits of
24 registering; and

25 (D) periodically notify eligible individuals
26 of significant developments in the study and

1 treatment of conditions associated with expo-
2 sure to PFAS.

3 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Vet-
4 erans Affairs shall coordinate with the Secretary of
5 Defense in carrying out paragraph (1).

6 (b) REPORTS.—

7 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than two years
8 after the date on which the registry under subsection
9 (a) is established, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
10 shall submit to Congress an initial report containing
11 the following:

12 (A) An assessment of the effectiveness of
13 actions taken by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
14 fairs and the Secretary of Defense to collect
15 and maintain information on the health effects
16 of exposure to PFAS.

17 (B) Recommendations to improve the col-
18 lection and maintenance of such information.

19 (C) Using established and previously pub-
20 lished epidemiological studies, recommendations
21 regarding the most effective and prudent means
22 of addressing the medical needs of eligible indi-
23 viduals with respect to exposure to PFAS.

24 (2) FOLLOW-UP REPORT.—Not later than five
25 years after submitting the initial report under para-

1 graph (1), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
2 submit to Congress a follow-up report containing the
3 following:

4 (A) An update to the initial report sub-
5 mitted under paragraph (1).

6 (B) An assessment of whether and to what
7 degree the content of the registry established
8 under subsection (a) is current and scientif-
9 ically up-to-date.

10 (3) INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZA-
11 TION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter
12 into an agreement with an independent scientific or-
13 ganization to prepare the reports under paragraphs
14 (1) and (2).

15 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL EXPO-
16 SURES TO BE INCLUDED.—Not later than five years after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, and every five years
18 thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consulta-
19 tion with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator
20 of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall submit to
21 Congress recommendations for additional chemicals with
22 respect to which individuals exposed to such chemicals
23 should be included in the registry established under sub-
24 section (a).

1 (d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
2 tion, the term “eligible individual” means any individual
3 who, on or after a date specified by the Secretary of Vet-
4 erans Affairs through regulations, served or is serving in
5 the Armed Forces at a military installation where AFFF
6 was used or at another location of the Department of De-
7 fense where AFFF was used.