

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 144

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

AN ACT

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS; CREATING THE SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT JESSEY BACA MILITARY AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN
PIT REGISTRY ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ SHORT TITLE.--This act may be
cited as the "Senior Master Sergeant Jessey Baca Military
Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Act".

SECTION 2. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ MILITARY AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND
OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY--CREATION--DUTIES.--For the purposes of
outreach, education and advocacy for New Mexico service members
and veterans who have been exposed to open burn pit smoke or
other airborne hazards during their service in operation Iraqi
freedom, operation enduring freedom, operation new dawn, the
Gulf War 1990-1991 or other conflicts or theaters that may

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1 subsequently be identified, the secretary of veterans' services
2 shall:

3 A. identify a subject-matter expert at the United
4 States department of veterans affairs who has the ability and
5 capacity to assist veterans seeking medical care or assistance
6 with the department of veterans affairs' claims process;

7 B. make available to veterans the most current
8 medical studies and recommendations with regards to inhalation
9 of toxic substances due to exposure to open burn pits; and

10 C. establish and maintain a public information
11 program to educate and inform service members, veterans and
12 their families regarding:

13 (1) how to sign up and use the United States
14 department of veterans affairs burn pit registry and
15 information regarding the veterans health administration's
16 presumptive conditions or diseases believed to have been caused
17 by exposure to open burn pits;

18 (2) the types of treatment offered by the
19 veterans health administration that are available for any
20 conditions or diseases caused by exposure to open burn pits and
21 care offered outside the veterans health administration that
22 have been approved for medical use;

23 (3) how to document medical conditions that
24 may be related to exposure to open burn pits and how to apply
25 for a service-connected disability through the United States

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1 department of veterans affairs; and

2 (4) appealing an existing disability rating
3 decision or requesting an upgrade in disability rating from the
4 United States department of veterans affairs.

5 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
6 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.

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