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SENATE BILL 144

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

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

AN ACT

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS; CREATING THE 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 "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. monitor the most current published
4 epidemiological studies and recommendations arising as a
5 requirement of 38 U.S.C. 527, as well as any developments in
6 the study and treatment of conditions associated with exposure
7 to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits;

8 B. create a database of self-identifying service
9 members and veterans who have been exposed to burn pits, which
10 database shall include the name, address, electronic address,
11 phone number, location, period of service and any other
12 information deemed necessary by the secretary of veterans'
13 services; and

14 C. establish and maintain a public information
15 program to educate and inform service members, veterans and
16 their families regarding:

17 (1) the most recent scientific developments on
18 the health effects of exposure to open burn pit smoke or other
19 airborne hazards;

20 (2) the availability of treatments for any
21 conditions or diseases possibly related to open burn pit smoke
22 or other airborne hazards;

23 (3) applying for service-connected disability
24 compensation for any conditions or diseases possibly related to
25 exposure to open burn pit smoke or other airborne hazards,

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1 including the current status on related presumptive conditions
2 or diseases as designated by the United States department of
3 veterans affairs; and

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

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

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