

2021 -- H 6483

LC003098

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced By: Representatives Vella-Wilkinson, Noret, Shanley, Azzinaro, Solomon,
Casimiro, Kazarian, C Lima, Kennedy, and Williams

Date Introduced: June 29, 2021

Referred To: House Veterans` Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 30-17.1 of the General Laws entitled "Veterans' Affairs" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **30-17.1-4.1. Airborne hazards and open burn pit registry.**

4 (a) The office of veterans services shall establish an airborne hazards and open burn pit
5 registry (AHOBPR) to help identify and document veterans who may have incurred potential health
6 effects of airborne hazard exposures during their time of service in a combat theater.

7 (b) Veterans are eligible to participate in the registry if they were deployed to the southwest
8 Asia theater of operations any time on or after August 2, 1990, or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or
9 after September 11, 2001.

10 (1) These regions and countries include: Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain,
11 Djibouti, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and the waters of the
12 Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and Red Sea.

13 (2) These operations and campaigns include: Desert Shield and Desert Storm (ODS/S),
14 Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Enduring Freedom (OEF), and New Dawn (OND).

15 (c) By joining the registry, airborne hazard exposure is on record for veterans and their
16 dependents in the event of long-term health conditions which may be related to these exposures.
17 To participate, the veteran shall not be required to have experienced any symptoms or illnesses
18 which may be related to exposures during military service; provided, however, a copy of the
19 veteran's DD-214, with the social security number redacted, must be filed to authenticate when the

1 [potential exposure occurred.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - VETERANS' AFFAIRS

1 This act would establish a registry of veterans exposed to airborne hazards and open burn
2 pits while serving in the southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990, or
3 Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001. The registry would help identify and
4 document veterans who may have incurred potential long-term health effects or conditions related
5 to this exposure during their time of service in a combat theater.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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