
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

John Smith (SB 538)

Proposed law establishes the Military Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

Proposed law establishes the areas of service eligibility as the Gulf War of 1990-1991, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, or other conflicts or theaters of war which may subsequently be identified.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs will monitor the most current published epidemiological studies and recommendations arising as a requirement of 38 U.S.C. 527, and any developments in the study and treatment of conditions associated with exposure to airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

Proposed law provides that the secretary will create a database of service members and veterans who have been exposed to burn pits, including the name, address, electronic address, phone number, location and the period of service, and any other information deemed necessary by the secretary.

Proposed law requires the secretary to establish and maintain a public information program in order to educate and inform service members, veterans and their families regarding:

1. The most recent scientific developments on the effects of exposure to open burn pit smoke or other airborne hazards.
2. Availability of possible treatments for their conditions.
3. Applying for service-connected disability compensation.
4. Appealing an existing disability rating decision or requesting an upgrade in disability rating from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Adds R.S. 29:330)