

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1220

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Establishes the Military Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part III-B of Chapter 2 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 29:331, relative to the Military Airborne Hazards and Open Burn  
4 Pit Registry; to provide for the duties and powers of the secretary of the Department  
5 of Veterans Affairs; to provide terms, conditions and requirements; and to provide  
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part III-B of Chapter 2 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
9 1950, comprised of R.S. 29:331, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 PART III- B MILITARY AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND

11 OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

12 §331. Military Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry; creation; duties and  
13 powers

14 For the purposes of outreach, education, and advocacy for Louisiana service  
15 members and veterans who have been exposed to open burn pit smoke or other  
16 airborne hazards during their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation  
17 Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, the Gulf War 1990-1991, or other  
18 conflicts or theaters which may subsequently be identified, the secretary of the  
19 Department of Veterans Affairs shall:

1           (1) Monitor the most current published epidemiological studies and  
2           recommendations arising as a requirement of 38 U.S.C. 527, as well as any  
3           developments in the study and treatment of conditions associated with exposure to  
4           toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

5           (2) Create a database of self-identifying service members and veterans who  
6           have been exposed to burn pits, that shall include the name, address, electronic  
7           address, phone number, location and period of service, and any other information as  
8           deemed necessary by the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

9           (3) Establish and maintain a public information program in order to educate  
10          and inform service members, veterans, and their families regarding:

11          (a) The most recent scientific developments on the health effects of exposure  
12          to open burn pit smoke or other airborne hazards.

13          (b) Availability of possible treatments for their conditions.

14          (c) Applying for service-connected disability compensation for any possible  
15          illnesses or conditions related to exposure to open burn pit smoke or other airborne  
16          hazards, including the current status on related presumptive conditions or diseases  
17          as designated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

18          (d) Appealing an existing disability rating decision or requesting an upgrade  
19          in disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Barrow

HB No. 1220

**Abstract:** 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.

(Adds R.S. 29:331)