

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1273

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to study and report on the prevalence of cholangiocarcinoma in veterans who served in the Vietnam theater of operations during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to study and report on the prevalence of cholangiocarcinoma in veterans who served in the Vietnam theater of operations during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Vietnam Veterans
5 Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON THE PREVALENCE OF**
2 **CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA IN VETERANS WHO**
3 **SERVED IN THE VIETNAM THEATER OF OPER-**
4 **ATIONS DURING THE VIETNAM ERA.**

5 (a) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY.—Not later than 120
6 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Director of
8 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the De-
9 partment of Health and Human Services, shall commence
10 an epidemiological study on the prevalence of
11 cholangiocarcinoma in covered veterans of the Vietnam
12 era, using data from the Veterans Affairs Central Cancer
13 Registry and the National Program of Cancer Registries.
14 The study shall—

15 (1) identify the rate of incidence of
16 cholangiocarcinoma in covered veterans of the Viet-
17 nam era and in residents of the United States, from
18 the beginning of the Vietnam era to the date of en-
19 actment of this Act; and

20 (2) for each of the groups specified in para-
21 graph (1), identify the percentage of individuals with
22 cholangiocarcinoma by various demographic charac-
23 teristics, including by age, gender, race, ethnicity,
24 and the geographic location of the patient at the
25 time of diagnosis.

1 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year
2 after the completion of the study under subsection (a), the
3 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing—

4 (1) the results of the study under subsection
5 (a); and

6 (2) recommendations for administrative or leg-
7 islative actions required to address issues identified
8 in the study under subsection (a).

9 (c) CONTINUED TRACKING OF
10 CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA IN COVERED VETERANS OF THE
11 VIETNAM ERA.—The Secretary shall track the prevalence
12 of cholangiocarcinoma in covered veterans of the Vietnam
13 era using the Veterans Affairs Central Cancer Registry,
14 and provide such information to Congress as required
15 under subsection (d).

16 (d) FOLLOW-UP REPORTS.—The Secretary shall pe-
17 riodically submit to the Congress an updated report under
18 subsection (b), as determined by the Secretary.

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
21 of Veterans Affairs.

22 (2) The term “Vietnam era” has the meaning
23 given such term in section 101 of title 38, United
24 States Code.

- 1 (3) The term “covered veterans of the Vietnam
- 2 era” means veterans who served in the Vietnam the-
- 3 ater of operations during the Vietnam era.

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