

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
OFFERED BY MR. BOST**

Add at the end the following:

1    **Subtitle \_\_\_\_\_—Toxic Exposure in**  
2                                    **the Military**

3    **SEC. 12\_\_\_\_. DEFINITIONS.**

4        In this title:

5            (1) The term “active military, naval, or air  
6            service” has the meaning given that term in section  
7            101 of title 38, United States Code.

8            (2) The term “open burn pit” has the meaning  
9            given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified  
10           Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement  
11           Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527  
12           note).

13           (3) The term “toxic substance” has the mean-  
14           ing given that term in subparagraph (G)(iii) of sec-  
15           tion 1710(e)(1) of such title, as added by section  
16           101(a)(1).

1 **SEC. 12** \_\_\_\_ . **FUNDING.**

2 Of the amounts appropriated for the Department of  
3 Veterans Affairs under this title, \$5,000,000,000 shall be  
4 available to carry out this subtitle.

5 **PART 1—EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE AND BEN-**  
6 **EFITS FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC**  
7 **SUBSTANCES**

8 **SEC. 12** \_\_\_\_ . **EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY FOR**  
9 **CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO OPEN**  
10 **BURN PITS AND OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES.**

11 (a) **EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY.—**

12 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 1710(e) of title 38,  
13 United States Code, is amended—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
15 the following new subparagraph:

16 “(G)(i) Subject to paragraph (2), a covered individual  
17 is eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing  
18 home care under subsection (a)(2)(F) for any illness.

19 “(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, a covered  
20 individual is an individual who—

21 “(I) is eligible for inclusion in the Airborne  
22 Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry; or

23 “(II) has been identified by the Secretary of  
24 Defense to have been possibly exposed, inside or out-  
25 side the United States, during active duty, active  
26 duty for training, or inactive duty training, to—

1                   “(aa) an open burn pit;

2                   “(bb) a toxic substance; or

3                   “(cc) a site included in a database main-  
4                   tained by the Department of Defense and  
5                   shared with the Department of Veterans Affairs  
6                   to serve as the central portal for exposure-re-  
7                   lated data that compiles, collates, presents, and  
8                   provides available occupational and environ-  
9                   mental exposure information to support the  
10                  needs of the Department of Defense and the  
11                  Department of Veterans Affairs.

12                  “(iii) In this subparagraph:

13                   “(I) The term ‘Airborne Hazards and Open  
14                   Burn Pit Registry’ means the registry established by  
15                   the Secretary under section 201 of the Dignified  
16                   Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement  
17                   Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527  
18                   note).

19                   “(II) The term ‘open burn pit’ has the meaning  
20                   given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified  
21                   Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement  
22                   Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527  
23                   note).

24                   “(III) The term ‘toxic substance’ means a toxi-  
25                   cant or a toxin.

1           “(IV) The term ‘toxicant’ means any substance  
2           that can injure or kill humans, animals, or plants  
3           and that is produced by humans or is a by-product  
4           of human activities.

5           “(V) The term ‘toxin’ means any substance  
6           that can injure or kill humans, animals, or plants  
7           and that is produced naturally.”; and

8                       (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “or  
9                       (F)” and inserting “(F), or (G)”.

10           (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
11           by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that  
12           is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this  
13           Act.

14           (b) DETERMINATIONS OF EXPOSURE.—

15                       (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
16           Affairs shall, to the extent practicable, establish and  
17           maintain a mechanism by which veterans may deter-  
18           mine whether or not they have been possibly exposed  
19           to an open burn pit or toxic substance described in  
20           subclause (II) of subparagraph (G)(ii) of section  
21           1710(e)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added  
22           by subsection (a)(1), for purposes of being consid-  
23           ered as covered individuals under such subpara-  
24           graph.

1           (2) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY.—Any deter-  
2           mination made under paragraph (1) shall be subject  
3           to the approval of the Secretary.

4           (3) APPEALS.—The Secretary shall establish a  
5           mechanism for appealing a decision made by the  
6           Secretary under paragraph (2).

7           (c) REPORT.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
9           the date on which the Secretary of Defense identifies  
10          the individuals described in subparagraph (G)(ii)(II)  
11          of section 1710(e)(1) of title 38, United States  
12          Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), the Secretary  
13          of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of  
14          Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the appropriate  
15          committees of Congress a report.

16          (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-  
17          graph (1) shall include the following:

18                (A) The duty locations or units of the indi-  
19                viduals described in paragraph (1), or other in-  
20                formation on groups to which such individuals  
21                belong.

22                (B) The evidence considered in identifying  
23                individuals who were possibly exposed to an  
24                open burn pit, toxic substance, or site as de-  
25                scribed in subparagraph (G)(ii)(II) of section

1           1710(e)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as  
2           added by subsection (a)(1).

3           (C) The criteria used to determine whether  
4           an individual was so exposed.

5           (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
6           GRESS.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate  
7           committees of Congress” means—

8           (A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
9           and the Committee on Armed Services of the  
10          Senate; and

11          (B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
12          and the Committee on Armed Services of the  
13          House of Representatives.

14 **SEC. 12\_\_\_ . EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY FOR**  
15 **VETERANS AWARDED CERTAIN MEDALS.**

16          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1710(e) of title 38,  
17          United States Code, as amended by section 101(a)(1), is  
18          further amended—

19               (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the  
20               following new subparagraph:

21               “(H) Subject to paragraph (2), a veteran is eligible  
22               for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care  
23               under subsection (a)(2)(F) for any illness if the veteran  
24               was awarded any of the following:

25                       “(i) The Armed Forces Service Medal.

1 “(ii) The Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

2 “(iii) The Global War on Terrorism Expedi-  
3 tionary Medal.

4 “(iv) The Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal.

5 “(v) The Iraq Campaign Medal.

6 “(vi) The Southwest Asia Service Medal.”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “or (G)” and  
8 inserting “(G), or (H)”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
10 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 90 days  
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 **PART 2—RESEARCH AND REVIEW REGARDING**  
13 **EXPOSURE TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

14 **SEC. 12\_\_\_ . ESTABLISHMENT OF TOXIC EXPOSURE REVIEW**  
15 **COMMISSION.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 5 of  
17 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
18 end the following new section:

19 **“§ 547. Toxic Exposure Review Commission**

20 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
21 lish an independent commission to be known as the ‘Toxic  
22 Exposure Review Commission’ (in this section referred to  
23 as the ‘Commission’).

1       “(b) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall advise the  
2 Secretary on questions relating to exposure to toxic sub-  
3 stances that require scientific research.

4       “(c) DUTIES.—(1) The Commission shall carry out  
5 the following duties:

6           “(A) Collect any relevant information from the  
7 Department of Defense and other sources to identify  
8 possible toxic exposures related to service during ac-  
9 tive duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty  
10 training in order to determine the need for a com-  
11 prehensive review under an agreement under section  
12 202 of the Toxic Exposure in the American Military  
13 Act.

14           “(B) Recommend to the Secretary, by majority  
15 vote, whether a comprehensive scientific review  
16 should be conducted by the National Academies of  
17 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under an agree-  
18 ment under section 202 of the Toxic Exposure in the  
19 American Military Act.

20           “(C) Recommend to the Secretary, by majority  
21 vote, whether new, independent studies regarding  
22 the health outcomes of exposure to toxic substances,  
23 or any other new, independent studies that the Com-  
24 mission deems necessary and appropriate, should be  
25 conducted.



1           “(D) Annually report to Congress on progress  
2 regarding the duties set forth in subparagraphs (A)  
3 through (C), any recommendations made to the Sec-  
4 retary, and any responses of the Secretary to such  
5 recommendations.

6           “(2)(A) Relevant information may be collected under  
7 paragraph (1)(A) from the following:

8           “(i) Any Federal agency as the Commission  
9 considers necessary to carry out this section.

10           “(ii) Public meetings or hearings, which may be  
11 held to take such testimony and receive such evi-  
12 dence as the Commission considers advisable to  
13 carry out the duties of the Commission.

14           “(B) Upon request of the Chair, the head of a Fed-  
15 eral agency shall furnish information collected under sub-  
16 paragraph (A)(i) to the Commission unless such informa-  
17 tion is classified.

18           “(d) MEMBERSHIP.—(1)(A) The Commission shall be  
19 composed of nine members, appointed as follows:

20           “(i) Two members appointed by the Speaker of  
21 the House of Representatives.

22           “(ii) Two members appointed by the minority  
23 leader of the House of Representatives.

24           “(iii) Two members appointed by the majority  
25 leader of the Senate.

1           “(iv) Two members appointed by the minority  
2 leader of the Senate.

3           “(v) One member appointed by the Secretary.

4           “(B) The initial members of the Commission shall be  
5 appointed under subparagraph (A) not later than 180  
6 days after the date of the enactment of the Toxic Expo-  
7 sure in the American Military Act.

8           “(2) In appointing individuals under paragraph  
9 (1)(A), the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
10 minority leader of the House of Representatives, the ma-  
11 jority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Sen-  
12 ate, and the Secretary shall ensure that at least five mem-  
13 bers of the Commission are scientists or health care pro-  
14 fessionals—

15           “(A) of whom—

16           “(i) one has a background in the field of  
17 respiratory medicine;

18           “(ii) one has a background in the field of  
19 endocrinology and metabolic medicine;

20           “(iii) one has a background in hematology;

21           “(iv) one has a background in oncology;

22 and

23           “(v) one has a background in occupational  
24 and environmental health; and

1           “(B) who are not officials or employees of the  
2       Federal Government.

3           “(3) In appointing individuals under paragraph  
4 (1)(A), the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
5 minority leader of the House of Representatives, the ma-  
6 jority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Sen-  
7 ate, and the Secretary shall ensure that at least two mem-  
8 bers of the Commission represent an organization recog-  
9 nized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans  
10 under section 5902 of this title.

11          “(4) In appointing individuals under paragraph  
12 (1)(A), the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
13 minority leader of the House of Representatives, the ma-  
14 jority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Sen-  
15 ate, and the Secretary shall give consideration to including  
16 in the Commission at least one member who works with  
17 survivors of illnesses related to exposure to toxic sub-  
18 stances and has a background in the field of study of expo-  
19 sure to toxic substances.

20          “(e) MEETINGS.—(1) The Commission shall meet not  
21 less frequently than twice each year.

22          “(2)(A) Each meeting of the Commission shall be  
23 open to the public.

1           “(B) All the proceedings, information, and delibera-  
2 tions of the Commission shall be available for review by  
3 the public.

4           “(C) Meetings of the Commission may be carried out  
5 through the use of telephonic or other appropriate tele-  
6 communication technology if the Commission determines  
7 that such technology will allow the members to commu-  
8 nicate simultaneously.

9           “(f) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—At the initial meeting  
10 of the Commission under subsection (e), the Commission  
11 shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from among the mem-  
12 bers of the Commission by a majority vote of the members  
13 of the Commission.

14           “(g) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—(1) A  
15 member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term  
16 that may not exceed four years.

17           “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that terms of mem-  
18 bers of the Commission are staggered so that no such  
19 terms end on the same date.

20           “(3) A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in  
21 the same manner as the original appointment, but the in-  
22 dividual appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve only for  
23 the unexpired portion of the term for which the individ-  
24 ual’s predecessor was appointed.

1           “(4) In appointing the initial members of the Com-  
2 mission, each official who is authorized to appoint two  
3 members of the Commission shall appoint—

4           “(A) one member whose term expires after two  
5 years; and

6           “(B) one member whose term expires after four  
7 years.

8           “(h) PAY.—(1) Members of the Commission shall  
9 serve without pay.

10          “(2) Each member of the Commission who is an offi-  
11 cer or employee of the United States shall serve without  
12 compensation in addition to that received for service as  
13 an officer or employee of the United States.

14          “(3) Members shall receive travel expenses, including  
15 per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections  
16 5702 and 5703 of title 5.

17          “(i) DIRECTOR OF STAFF.—(1) The Commission  
18 shall appoint a Director who—

19           “(A) has not served as an employee of the De-  
20 partment during the one-year period preceding the  
21 date of such appointment; and

22           “(B) is not otherwise barred or prohibited from  
23 serving as Director under Federal ethics laws and  
24 regulations, by reason of post-employment conflict of  
25 interest.

1           “(2) The Director shall be paid at the rate of basic  
2 pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under  
3 section 5315 of title 5.

4           “(j) STAFF.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3),  
5 the Director, with the approval of the Commission, may  
6 appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel.

7           “(2) The Director may make such appointments  
8 without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing ap-  
9 pointments in the competitive service, and any personnel  
10 so appointed may be paid without regard to the provisions  
11 of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that  
12 title relating to classification and General Schedule pay  
13 rates, except that an individual so appointed may not re-  
14 ceive pay in excess of the annual rate of basic pay payable  
15 for GS–15 of the General Schedule.

16           “(3)(A) Not more than two-thirds of the personnel  
17 employed by or detailed to the Commission may be on de-  
18 tail from the Department.

19           “(B) Not more than half of the professional analysts  
20 of the Commission staff may be persons detailed from the  
21 Department to the Commission.

22           “(4) Subject to paragraph (3), the head of any Fed-  
23 eral agency, upon the request of the Director, may detail  
24 any of the personnel of that agency to the Commission

1 to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under  
2 this section.

3 “(5) The Commission may secure directly from any  
4 Federal agency such information as the Commission con-  
5 sidered necessary to carry out this section. Upon request  
6 of the Chair, the head of such agency shall furnish such  
7 information to the Commission, unless such information  
8 is classified.

9 “(k) OTHER AUTHORITY.—(1) The Commission may  
10 procure by contract, to the extent funds are available, the  
11 temporary or intermittent services of experts or consult-  
12 ants pursuant to section 3109 of title 5.

13 “(2) To the extent funds are available, the Commis-  
14 sion may lease real property and acquire personal property  
15 either of its own accord or in consultation with the General  
16 Services Administration.

17 “(l) COMMUNICATIONS.—(1)(A) Except as provided  
18 in subparagraph (B), no person may restrict an employee  
19 of the Department in communicating with the Commis-  
20 sion.

21 “(B) Subparagraph (A) does not apply to a commu-  
22 nication that is unlawful.

23 “(2) All ex parte communications with the Commis-  
24 sion shall be made part of the public record.

1       “(m) REFERENCE TO NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF  
2 SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE.—In the case  
3 that the Secretary enters into an agreement with another  
4 organization as described in section 202(h)(1) of the Toxic  
5 Exposure in the American Military Act, any reference in  
6 this section to the National Academies of Sciences, Engi-  
7 neering, and Medicine shall be treated as a reference to  
8 the other organization.

9       “(n) TOXIC SUBSTANCE DEFINED.—In this section,  
10 the term ‘toxic substance’ has the meaning given that  
11 term in subparagraph (G)(iii) of section 1710(e)(1) of this  
12 title.”.

13       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
14 at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by  
15 adding at the end the following new item:

“547. Toxic Exposure Review Commission.”.

16 **SEC. 12 \_\_\_\_. AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF**  
17 **SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE**  
18 **CONCERNING THE EXPOSURE OF HUMANS TO**  
19 **TOXIC SUBSTANCES.**

20       (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-  
21 vide for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering,  
22 and Medicine (in this section referred to as the “Acad-  
23 emies”), an independent nonprofit scientific organization  
24 with appropriate expertise that is not part of the Federal  
25 Government, to review and evaluate the available scientific



1 evidence regarding associations between diseases and ex-  
2 posure to toxic substances.

3 (b) AGREEMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
5 Affairs shall seek to enter into a five-year agreement  
6 with the Academies to perform the services covered  
7 by this section.

8 (2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to enter  
9 into an agreement described in paragraph (1) not  
10 later than 60 days after the date of the enactment  
11 of this Act.

12 (3) EXTENSION.—An agreement under this sec-  
13 tion may be extended in five-year increments.

14 (c) REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.—Under an  
15 agreement between the Secretary and the Academies  
16 under this section, the Academies shall review and summa-  
17 rize the scientific evidence, and assess the strength there-  
18 of, concerning the association between exposure to toxic  
19 substances during active military, naval, or air service and  
20 each disease suspected to be associated with such exposure  
21 in the human population.

22 (d) SCIENTIFIC DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING DIS-  
23 EASES.—For each disease reviewed under subsection (c),  
24 the Academies shall determine, to the extent that available  
25 scientific data permit meaningful determinations—

1           (1) whether an association exists between expo-  
2           sure to toxic substances and the occurrence of the  
3           disease, taking into account the strength of the sci-  
4           entific evidence and the appropriateness of the sta-  
5           tistical and epidemiological methods used to detect  
6           the association;

7           (2) the increased risk of the disease among  
8           those exposed to toxic substances during active mili-  
9           tary, naval, or air service; and

10          (3) whether there exists a plausible biological  
11          mechanism or other evidence of a causal relationship  
12          between the exposure and the occurrence of the dis-  
13          ease.

14          (e) COOPERATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The  
15          head of each relevant Federal agency, including the Sec-  
16          retary of Defense, shall cooperate fully with the Academies  
17          in performing the services covered by this section.

18          (f) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SCI-  
19          ENTIFIC STUDIES.—

20                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement be-  
21                 tween the Secretary and the Academies under this  
22                 section, the Academies shall make any recommenda-  
23                 tions for additional scientific studies to resolve areas  
24                 of continuing scientific uncertainty relating to the  
25                 exposure of humans to toxic substances.

1           (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making rec-  
2           ommendations under paragraph (1), the Academies  
3           shall consider—

4                   (A) the scientific information that is avail-  
5                   able at the time of the recommendation;

6                   (B) the value and relevance of the informa-  
7                   tion that could result from additional studies;  
8                   and

9                   (C) the cost and feasibility of carrying out  
10                  such additional studies.

11       (g) REPORTS.—

12           (1) INITIAL REPORT.—

13                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement  
14                   between the Secretary and the Academies under  
15                   this section, not later than one year after the  
16                   date of the enactment of this Act, the Acad-  
17                   emies shall submit to the Secretary, the Com-  
18                   mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, and  
19                   the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the  
20                   House of Representatives an initial report on  
21                   the activities of the Academies under the agree-  
22                   ment.

23                   (B) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted  
24                   under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-  
25                   lowing:

1 (i) The determinations described in  
2 subsection (d).

3 (ii) A full explanation of the scientific  
4 evidence and reasoning that led to such de-  
5 terminations.

6 (iii) Any recommendations of the  
7 Academies under subsection (f).

8 (2) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Under an agreement  
9 between the Secretary and the Academies under this  
10 section, not less frequently than once every two  
11 years after the date on which the initial report is  
12 submitted under paragraph (1)(A), the Academies  
13 shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Vet-  
14 erans' Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on  
15 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an  
16 updated report on the activities of the Academies  
17 under the agreement.

18 (h) ALTERNATIVE CONTRACT SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZA-  
19 TION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary is unable  
21 within the time period prescribed in subsection  
22 (b)(2) to enter into an agreement with the Acad-  
23 emies for the purposes of this section on terms ac-  
24 ceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to  
25 enter into an agreement for the purposes of this sec-

1           tion with another appropriate scientific organization  
2           that—

3                   (A) is not part of the Federal Government;

4                   (B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

5                   (C) has expertise and objectivity com-  
6           parable to that of the Academies.

7           (2) TREATMENT.—If the Secretary enters into  
8           an agreement with another organization as described  
9           in paragraph (1), any reference in this section, sec-  
10          tion 547 of title 38, United States Code, as added  
11          by section 201(a), and section 1119 of such title, as  
12          added by section 103(a), to the National Academies  
13          of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall be  
14          treated as a reference to the other organization.

15 **SEC. 12\_\_\_. COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND REPORT ON**  
16 **TREATMENT OF VETERANS FOR MEDICAL**  
17 **CONDITIONS RELATED TO EXPOSURE TO**  
18 **TOXIC SUBSTANCES.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
20          shall compile and analyze, on a continuous basis, all clin-  
21          ical data that—

22                   (1) is obtained by the Department of Veterans  
23          Affairs in connection with hospital care, medical  
24          services, and nursing home care furnished under sec-

1       tion 1710(a)(2)(F) of title 38, United States Code;  
2       and

3           (2) is likely to be scientifically useful in deter-  
4       mining the association, if any, between the medical  
5       condition of a veteran and exposure to a toxic sub-  
6       stance.

7       (b) CONSENT OF PATIENTS.—Compilation and anal-  
8       ysis by the Secretary of clinical data of a veteran under  
9       subsection (a) shall be conducted, and such data shall be  
10      used, consistent with the informed consent of the veteran  
11      and in compliance with all applicable Federal law.

12      (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after  
13      the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-  
14      after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-  
15      erans' Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Veterans'  
16      Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Toxic Ex-  
17      posure Review Commission established by section 547 of  
18      title 38, United States Code, as added by section 201(a)  
19      of this Act, a report containing—

20           (1) the data compiled under subsection (a);

21           (2) an analysis of such data;

22           (3) a description of the types and incidences of  
23      medical conditions identified by the Department  
24      under such subsection;

1 (4) the explanation of the Secretary for the in-  
2 cidence of such medical conditions and other expla-  
3 nations for the incidence of such conditions as the  
4 Secretary considers reasonable; and

5 (5) the views of the Secretary on the scientific  
6 validity of drawing conclusions from the incidence of  
7 such medical conditions, as evidenced by the data  
8 compiled under subsection (a), regarding any asso-  
9 ciation between such conditions and exposure to a  
10 toxic substance.

11 **PART 3—IMPROVEMENT OF RESOURCES OF DE-**  
12 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGARD-**  
13 **ING EXPOSURES TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

14 **SEC. 12\_\_\_ . PUBLICATION OF LIST OF RESOURCES OF DE-**  
15 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VET-**  
16 **ERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND**  
17 **OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR SUCH VETERANS**  
18 **AND CAREGIVERS AND SURVIVORS OF SUCH**  
19 **VETERANS.**

20 (a) PUBLICATION OF LIST OF RESOURCES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-  
23 nually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
24 shall publish a list of resources of the Department  
25 of Veterans Affairs for—

1 (A) veterans provided disability compensa-  
2 tion under chapter 11 of title 38, United States  
3 Code, relating to exposure to toxic substances;

4 (B) veterans eligible for hospital care,  
5 medical services, and nursing home care under  
6 section 1710(a)(2)(F) of such title;

7 (C) caregivers of veterans described in sub-  
8 paragraph (A) or (B) who are participating in  
9 the program of comprehensive assistance for  
10 family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of  
11 such title; and

12 (D) survivors of veterans described in sub-  
13 paragraph (A) or (B) (or who would be de-  
14 scribed in any such subparagraph were the vet-  
15 eran alive) who are receiving death benefits  
16 under the laws administered by the Secretary.

17 (2) UPDATE.—The Secretary shall periodically  
18 update the list published under paragraph (1).

19 (b) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall develop, with  
20 input from the community, an informative outreach pro-  
21 gram for veterans on illnesses that may be related to expo-  
22 sure to toxic substances, including outreach with respect  
23 to benefits and support programs.



1 **SEC. 12 \_\_\_\_ . INCORPORATION OF TOXIC EXPOSURE QUES-**  
2 **TIONNAIRE DURING PRIMARY CARE AP-**  
3 **POINTMENTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
5 shall incorporate a clinical questionnaire to help determine  
6 potential exposure to toxic substances during active mili-  
7 tary, naval, or air service as part of the initial screening  
8 conducted for an appointment of a veteran with a primary  
9 care provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs to  
10 improve understanding by the Department of exposure of  
11 veterans to toxic substances while serving in the Armed  
12 Forces.

13 (b) DETERMINATION OF QUESTIONS.—The questions  
14 included in the questionnaire required under subsection  
15 (a) shall be determined by the Secretary with input from  
16 medical professionals.

17 **SEC. 12 \_\_\_\_ . TRAINING OF HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL OF**  
18 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ON ILL-**  
19 **NESSES RELATED TO EXPOSURE TO TOXIC**  
20 **SUBSTANCES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
22 shall ensure that health care personnel of the Department  
23 of Veterans Affairs are appropriately trained to identify,  
24 treat, and assess the impact of illnesses related to expo-  
25 sure to toxic substances.

1 (b) ELEMENTS OF TRAINING.—The training required  
2 under subsection (a) shall—

3 (1) provide health care personnel of the Depart-  
4 ment with specific education with respect to illnesses  
5 related to exposure to toxic substances; and

6 (2) inform such personnel of how to probe for  
7 additional information from veterans regarding expo-  
8 sures to different toxicants.

9 (c) TOXICANT DEFINED.—In this section, the term  
10 “toxicant” has the meaning given that term in subpara-  
11 graph (G)(iii) of section 1710(e)(1) of title 38, United  
12 States Code, as added by section 101(a)(1).

