

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

52nd Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2015

CHAPTER 94

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL 144

Introduced by



CHAPTER 94

AN ACT

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS; CREATING THE SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT JESSEY BACA MILITARY AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Senior Master Sergeant Jessey Baca Military Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Act".

SECTION 2. MILITARY AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY--CREATION--DUTIES.--For the purposes of outreach, education and advocacy for New Mexico service members and veterans who have been exposed to open burn pit smoke or other airborne hazards during their service in operation Iraqi freedom, operation enduring freedom, operation new dawn, the Gulf War 1990-1991 or other conflicts or theaters that may subsequently be identified, the secretary of veterans' services shall:

A. identify a subject-matter expert at the United States department of veterans affairs who has the ability and capacity to assist veterans seeking medical care or assistance with the department of veterans affairs' claims process;

B. make available to veterans the most current medical studies and recommendations with regards to

1 inhalation of toxic substances due to exposure to open burn
2 pits; and

3 C. establish and maintain a public information
4 program to educate and inform service members, veterans and
5 their families regarding:

6 (1) how to sign up and use the United States
7 department of veterans affairs burn pit registry and
8 information regarding the veterans health administration's
9 presumptive conditions or diseases believed to have been
10 caused by exposure to open burn pits;

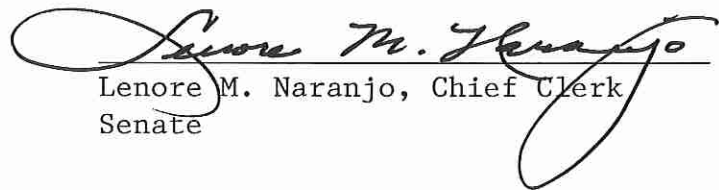
11 (2) the types of treatment offered by the
12 veterans health administration that are available for any
13 conditions or diseases caused by exposure to open burn pits
14 and care offered outside the veterans health administration
15 that have been approved for medical use;

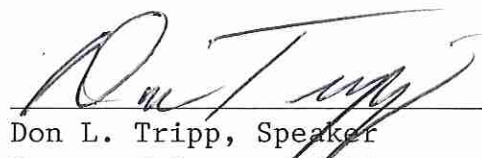
16 (3) how to document medical conditions that
17 may be related to exposure to open burn pits and how to apply
18 for a service-connected disability through the United States
19 department of veterans affairs; and


20 (4) appealing an existing disability rating
21 decision or requesting an upgrade in disability rating from
22 the United States department of veterans affairs.

23 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
24 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015. _____



John A. Sanchez, President
Senate


Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate


Don L. Tripp, Speaker
House of Representatives


Denise Ramonas, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

Approved by me this 24 day of April, 2015


Governor Susana Martinez
State of New Mexico