

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4675

To improve benefits for veterans who may have been exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 3, 2026

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To improve benefits for veterans who may have been exposed
to toxic substances, 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 “Sergeant Dave Crete
5 Fighting for the Overlooked Recognition of Groups Oper-
6 ating in Toxic Test Environments in Nevada Veterans Act
7 of 2026” or the “Sergeant Dave Crete FORGOTTEN
8 Veterans Act of 2026”.

9 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

1 (1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR, OR SPACE
 2 SERVICE.—The term “active military, naval, air, or
 3 space service” has the meaning given that term in
 4 section 101(24) of title 38, United States Code.

5 (2) COVERED LOCATION.—The term “covered
 6 location” means—

7 (A) any facility on the most recent list of
 8 facilities covered under the Energy Employees
 9 Occupational Illness Compensation Program
 10 Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published
 11 in the Federal Register by the Department of
 12 Energy; or

13 (B) with respect to service on or after Jan-
 14 uary 27, 1951, any location within the Nevada
 15 Test and Training Range or the Nevada Na-
 16 tional Security Site (as defined on May 19,
 17 2026).

18 (3) TOXIC EXPOSURE.—The term “toxic expo-
 19 sure” has the meaning given that term in section
 20 101(37) of title 38, United States Code.

21 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**
 22 **TO IDENTIFY VETERANS WHO PERFORMED**
 23 **MILITARY SERVICE AT COVERED LOCATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
 25 fairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall

1 establish and carry out a process to identify veterans who
 2 served at a covered location and may have encountered
 3 toxic exposure during active military, naval, air, or space
 4 service.

5 (b) USE OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—In carrying
 6 out subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
 7 use—

8 (1) military personnel and deployment records
 9 maintained by the Department of Defense; and

10 (2) information provided by veterans through
 11 the registry established under section 7.

12 (c) NO AFFIRMATIVE EVIDENCE REQUIRED.—The
 13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not require a veteran
 14 to provide affirmative evidence of exposure to a specific
 15 toxic substance if service at a covered location is estab-
 16 lished.

17 **SEC. 4. TREATMENT AS RADIATION-RISK ACTIVITIES BY DE-**
 18 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

19 Section 1112(c)(3)(B) of title 38, United States
 20 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
 21 clause:

22 “(viii) Active military, naval, air, or space
 23 service, or onsite participation in any aspect of
 24 the development, construction, operation, or
 25 maintenance of a military installation (as de-

1 fined in section 2801 of title 10), within the
 2 area that comprises the Nevada Test and
 3 Training Range and the Nevada National Security
 4 Site, as defined on May 19, 2026, during
 5 the period beginning on January 27, 1951, and
 6 ending on the date which the Secretary of De-
 7 fense, with independent verification, certifies
 8 that the area that comprises the Nevada Test
 9 and Training Range and the Nevada National
 10 Security Site no longer pose radiation risk to
 11 personnel present, or enactment of the Sergeant
 12 Dave Crete Fighting for the Overlooked Rec-
 13 ognition of Groups Operating in Toxic Test En-
 14 vironments in Nevada Veterans Act of 2026,
 15 whichever is later.”.

16 **SEC. 5. PRESUMPTION OF TOXIC EXPOSURE FOR VET-**
 17 **ERANS WHO SERVED AT COVERED LOCA-**
 18 **TIONS AND PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CON-**
 19 **NECTION FOR CERTAIN DISEASES.**

20 Section 1119(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
 21 is amended—

22 (1) in subparagraph (A)(viii), by striking “; or”
 23 and inserting a semicolon;

24 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ix), by striking the pe-
 25 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) at any time, performed active military, naval, air, or space service while assigned to a duty station in, including airspace above, any facility on the most recent list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published in the Federal Register by the Department of Energy; or

“(D) on or after January 27, 1951, performed active military, naval, air, or space service while assigned to a duty station in, including airspace above, any location within the area that comprises the Nevada Test and Training Range and the Nevada National Security Site, as defined on May 19, 2026.”.

SEC. 6. STUDY ON TOXIC EXPOSURES AT COVERED LOCATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services or another ap-

1 appropriate scientific organization to study potential toxic
2 exposures and environmental hazards at covered locations.

3 (b) STUDY.—The study required under subsection (a)
4 shall—

5 (1) identify exposures associated with military
6 occupations of veterans who served at covered loca-
7 tions, including exposures relating to chemicals,
8 compounds, agents, and other phenomena; and

9 (2) review the literature to determine associa-
10 tions between such exposures and the incidence or
11 prevalence of overall cancer morbidity and overall
12 cancer mortality, and determine, to the extent pos-
13 sible, the prevalence and mortality of cancers among
14 such veterans by using available sources of data,
15 which may include—

16 (A) health care and other administrative
17 databases of the Department of Veterans Af-
18 fairs, the Department of Defense, and the mili-
19 tary departments, respectively; and

20 (B) the national death index maintained by
21 the National Center for Health Statistics of the
22 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

23 (c) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Amounts authorized to
24 be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense to carry out
25 the study required under subsection (a) may be trans-

ferred without regard to section 2215 of title 10, United States Code, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to pay for the study.

(d) REPORT.—At the conclusion of the study required under subsection (a), the Department of Health and Human Services or other appropriate scientific organization, as the case may be, shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives, the President of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and the Chair of the National Research Council a report containing the results of the study.

**SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF COVERED LOCATION VETERAN
REGISTRY.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain a registry of veterans who served at covered locations who may have encountered toxic exposure during active military, naval, air, or space service (in this section referred to as the “registry”).

(b) PURPOSES.—The registry shall be used to—

(1) collect, process, maintain, and consolidate epidemiological information required to analyze incidence of adverse health effects among veterans who served in covered locations;

1 (2) facilitate coordination between the Depart-
2 ment of Veterans Affairs and the Department of De-
3 fense to verify service;

4 (3) inform veterans of available health care,
5 benefits, and screenings; and

6 (4) support outreach, research, and claims ad-
7 judication related to toxic exposure.

8 (c) OPT-OUT AND RECRUITMENT.—

9 (1) OPT-OUT.—Participants must have the op-
10 portunity to opt-out of inclusion in the registry.

11 (2) RECRUITMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans

12 Affairs shall recruit veterans described in subsection

13 (a) who are not represented in data sources of the

14 Department of Defense or the Department of Vet-

15 erans Affairs.

16 (d) DATA-SHARING.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-

17 fairs shall share information collected through the registry

18 with the Secretary of Defense, consistent with applicable

19 privacy and security laws, for purposes of identifying af-

20 fected veterans and improving care and benefits delivery.

1 **SEC. 8. CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AS LOCA-**
2 **TIONS WHERE CONTAMINATION OCCURRED**
3 **AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
4 **WERE EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
6 classify the following locations as a location where con-
7 tamination occurred:

8 (1) On and after January 27, 1951, the Nevada
9 Test and Training Range, including the Nevada Na-
10 tional Security Site (as such site is defined on May
11 19, 2026).

12 (2) Any facility on the most recent list of facili-
13 ties covered under the Energy Employees Occupa-
14 tional Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000
15 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published in the Federal
16 Register by the Secretary of Energy.

17 (b) IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
19 shall establish a process to identify members of the
20 Armed Forces and former members of the Armed
21 Forces that were stationed at a facility specified in
22 subsection (a).

23 (2) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary of De-
24 fense shall establish a process to permit members of
25 the Armed Forces and former members of the
26 Armed Forces to provide documentation or evidence

1 of their assignment at a facility specified in sub-
2 section (a) to assist the Secretary in identifying
3 those members and former members under para-
4 graph (1).

5 (3) EFFORTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
6 make all efforts to identify individuals described in
7 paragraph (1) and shall not require members of the
8 Armed Forces or former members of the Armed
9 Forces to submit evidence of their stationing.

10 (c) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of
11 Defense shall share with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
12 all information and documentation gathered under sub-
13 section (b) in order to provide the Secretary of Veterans
14 Affairs with adequate documentation of the service of
15 members of the Armed Forces and former members of the
16 Armed Forces at facilities specified in subsection (a) and
17 any injuries, exposures, or illnesses related to such service,
18 for the purpose of establishing any claim for benefits
19 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans
20 Affairs to which such members and former members are
21 legally entitled.

○