

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2697

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for purposes of veterans benefits for certain chronic symptoms occurring in veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 1999

Mr. MANZULLO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for purposes of veterans benefits for certain chronic symptoms occurring in veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War.

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 “Persian Gulf War Syn-  
5       drome Compensation Act of 1999”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) Since the end of the Persian Gulf War, the  
 2       Federal Government has funded 121 research  
 3       projects to examine the illness known as the Persian  
 4       Gulf War Syndrome.

5           (2) The results of those studies clearly indicate  
 6       the existence of the syndrome, leading to disability  
 7       and sometimes death.

8           (3) Although the specific cause of the syndrome  
 9       has not been definitely diagnosed, the need to com-  
 10      pensate those veterans suffering from this illness is  
 11      clear because the connection between military service  
 12      in the Persian Gulf War theater and the syndrome  
 13      has been clearly established.

14 **SEC. 3. COMPENSATION OF VETERANS WITH PERSIAN**  
 15 **GULF WAR SYNDROME.**

16       (a) COMPENSATION.—(1) Chapter 11 of title 38,  
 17   United States Code, is amended by inserting after section  
 18   1117 the following new section:

19 **“§ 1117A. Presumption of service connection for Per-**  
 20 **sian Gulf War Syndrome**

21       “(a)(1) For the purposes of section 1110 of this title,  
 22   and subject to section 1113 of this title, a specified chronic  
 23   symptom from which a covered Persian Gulf veteran with  
 24   Persian Gulf War Syndrome is suffering shall be consid-  
 25   ered to be a disease or disability incurred in or aggravated

1 by service in the active military, naval, or air service, not-  
2 withstanding that there is no record of evidence of such  
3 chronic symptom during the period of such service.

4 “(b) For purposes of this section:

5 “(1) The term ‘covered Persian Gulf War vet-  
6 eran’ means a Persian Gulf veteran (as defined in  
7 section 1117(f) of this title) any part of whose serv-  
8 ice on active duty in the Armed Forces in the South-  
9 west Asia theater of operations was during the pe-  
10 riod beginning on August 2, 1990, and ending on  
11 December 31, 1991.

12 “(2) The term ‘Persian Gulf War Syndrome’  
13 means a set of two or more specified chronic symp-  
14 toms becoming manifest in a covered Persian Gulf  
15 War veteran before January 1, 1995, regardless of  
16 whether the cause of any such symptom is diag-  
17 nosed.

18 “(3) The term ‘specified chronic symptom’  
19 means the frequent occurrence of any of the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(A) Joint pain.

22 “(B) Muscle pain.

23 “(C) Fatigue.

24 “(D) Severe headache.

25 “(E) Memory loss.

1                   “(F) Respiratory disorder.

2                   “(G) Sleep disturbances.

3                   “(H) Skin rash.

4                   “(I) Circulatory disorder.”.

5           (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
6 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
7 to section 1117 the following new item:

          “1117A. Presumption of service connection for Persian Gulf War Syndrome.”.

8           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1113 of  
9 such title is amended by inserting “1117A,” before “or  
10 1118” each place it appears.

11          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 1117A of title 38,  
12 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall  
13 apply with respect to claims submitted before, on, or after  
14 the date of the enactment of this Act and regardless of  
15 whether the claimant is alive or deceased.

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