

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5344

To prevent and respond to hazing incidents involving members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2012

Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. HONDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To prevent and respond to hazing incidents involving members of the Armed Forces, 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. COMPREHENSIVE ARMED FORCES POLICY ON**  
4               **PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO HAZING IN-**  
5               **VOLVING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

6       (a) HAZING DEFINED.—The Secretary of Defense, in  
7       consultation with the Secretaries of the military depart-  
8       ments and the Secretary of Homeland Security (with re-  
9       spect to the Coast Guard), shall assess and develop a uni-  
10      form definition of hazing applicable to members of the

1 Armed Forces for inclusion in the Uniform Code of Mili-  
2 tary Justice. The Secretary of Defense shall submit the  
3 definition to the designated congressional committees not  
4 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this  
5 Act. It is the sense of Congress that the definition should  
6 cover, at a minimum, any situation in which a member  
7 of the Armed Forces suffers, or is exposed to, any cruelty,  
8 indignity, humiliation, hardship, harm, harassment, or op-  
9 pression, or the deprivation or abridgement of any right  
10 by another member of the Armed Forces.

11 (b) COMPREHENSIVE ARMED FORCES POLICY RE-  
12 QUIRED.—

13 (1) POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than one  
14 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
15 Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secre-  
16 taries of the military departments and the Secretary  
17 of Homeland Security, shall develop and implement  
18 a comprehensive policy on the prevention of and re-  
19 sponse to hazing involving members of the Armed  
20 Forces.

21 (2) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

22 In developing this policy, the Secretaries shall con-  
23 sider the recommendations made and findings of the  
24 Inspectors General of the Department of Defense  
25 and the Department of Homeland Security in re-

1       ports investigating hazing involving members of the  
2       Armed Forces and the recommendations of the  
3       Comptroller General of the United States under sub-  
4       section (e).

5               (3) USE OF DEFINITION.—The policy shall re-  
6       flect the comprehensive definition of hazing deter-  
7       mined pursuant to subsection (a).

8       (c) INFORMATION DATABASE ON HAZING INCI-  
9       DENTS.—

10              (1) DATABASE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of  
11       Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security  
12       shall develop and implement a centralized, case-level  
13       database for the collection and maintenance of infor-  
14       mation regarding hazing involving a member of the  
15       Armed Services, including hazing incidents occurring  
16       at officer candidate schools, military academies, mili-  
17       tary academy preparatory schools, and basic training  
18       and professional schools for enlisted members. The  
19       collection and maintenance of information in the  
20       database shall be conducted in a manner consistent  
21       with Department of Defense and the Department of  
22       Homeland Security regulations for restricted report-  
23       ing.

1           (2) SCOPE OF DATABASE.—The database shall  
2       provide the following information with respect to  
3       each Armed Force:

4                   (A) Description of each hazing complaint.

5                   (B) Substantiated incidents of hazing.

6                   (C) The nature and date of the hazing.

7                   (D) The victim, including race, gender,  
8       and rank.

9                   (E) The alleged offender, including race,  
10       gender, and rank.

11                  (F) The branch and division in which the  
12       hazing incident occurred, along with whether it  
13       took place during a contingency operation.

14                  (G) Actions taken to resolve hazing, in-  
15       cluding disciplinary action, transfer of an of-  
16       fender as a result or related to the offense, and  
17       training, policy, and internal guideline changes  
18       to address hazing.

19                  (H) The outcome of any legal proceedings  
20       in connection with the hazing.

21       (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—

22                  (A) PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not  
23       later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
24       ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and  
25       the Secretary of Homeland Security shall sub-

mit to the designated congressional committees  
a plan to provide for the implementation of the  
database.

(B) RELATION TO DEFENSE INCIDENT-  
BASED REPORTING SYSTEM.—Not later than  
180 days after the date of the enactment of this  
Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to  
the designated congressional committees a re-  
port containing—

(i) a description of the current status  
of the Defense Incident-Based Reporting  
System; and

(ii) an explanation of how the Defense  
Incident-Based Reporting System will re-  
late to the database.

(C) COMPLETION.—Not later than 15  
months after the date of the enactment of this  
Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary  
of Homeland Security shall complete implemen-  
tation of the database.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The database required by  
subsection (c) shall be used to develop and imple-  
ment an annual congressional report.

1           (2) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than Janu-  
2       ary 15 of each year, the Secretary of Defense and  
3       the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to  
4       the designated congressional committees a report on  
5       the hazing incidents involving members of the  
6       Armed Forces during the preceding year.

7           (3) ELEMENTS.—Each report shall include the  
8       following:

9           (A) An assessment by the Secretaries of  
10       the implementation during the preceding year  
11       of the policies and procedures of each Armed  
12       Force on the prevention of and response to haz-  
13       ing involving members of the Armed Forces in  
14       order to determine the effectiveness of such  
15       policies and procedures.

16          (B) Data on the number of alleged and  
17       substantiated hazing incidents within each  
18       Armed Force that occurred that year, including  
19       the race, gender and Armed Force of the victim  
20       and offender, the nature of the hazing, and ac-  
21       tions taken to resolve and address the hazing.

22       (e) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—

23           (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one  
24       year after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
25       Comptroller General of the United States shall sub-

1       mit to the designated congressional committees a re-  
2       port on the policies to prevent hazing and systems  
3       initiated to track incidents of hazing in each of the  
4       Armed Forces, including officer cadet schools, mili-  
5       tary academies, military academy preparatory  
6       schools, and basic training and professional schools  
7       for enlisted members.

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

10               (A) An evaluation of the definition of haz-  
11       ing developed under subsection (a).

12               (B) A description of the criteria used, and  
13       the methods implemented, in the systems to  
14       track incidents of hazing in the Armed Forces.

15               (C) An assessment of the following:

16                       (i) The scope of hazing in each Armed  
17       Force.

18                       (ii) The policies in place and the  
19       training on hazing provided to members  
20       throughout the course of their careers for  
21       each Armed Force.

22                       (iii) The actions taken to mitigate  
23       hazing incidents in each Armed Force.

24                       (iv) The effectiveness of the training  
25       and policies in place regarding hazing.

1 (v) The number of alleged and sub-  
2 stantiated incidents of hazing over the last  
3 five years for each Armed Force, the na-  
4 ture of these cases and actions taken to  
5 address such matters through non-judicial  
6 and judicial action.

7 (D) An evaluation of the additional ac-  
8 tions, if any, the Secretary of Defense and the  
9 Secretary of Homeland Security propose to take  
10 to further address the incidence of hazing in  
11 the Armed Forces.

12 (E) Such recommendations as the Comp-  
13 troller General considers appropriate for im-  
14 proving hazing prevention programs, policies,  
15 and other actions taken to address hazing with-  
16 in the Armed Forces.

17 (f) DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
18 FINED.—In this section, the term “designated congres-  
19 sional committees” means—

20 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
21 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,  
22 and the Committee on Commerce, Science and  
23 Transportation of the Senate; and

24 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
25 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,



- 1 and the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
- 2 structure of the House of Representatives.

