

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3180

To require the Department of Defense to develop a plan to track and respond to incidents of hazing in the Armed Forces.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 15, 2012

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Department of Defense to develop a plan to track and respond to incidents of hazing in the Armed Forces.

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. PLAN TO TRACK AND RESPOND TO HAZING IN-**
4 **CIDENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

5 (a) PLAN AND BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than
6 May 1, 2013, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to
7 the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the
8 House of Representatives a briefing and plan that outlines
9 efforts by the Department of Defense—

1 (1) to prevent the hazing of members of the
2 Armed Forces by other members of the Armed
3 Forces;

4 (2) to provide training on the prevention of haz-
5 ing to members of the Armed Forces;

6 (3) to improve methods of reporting incidents of
7 hazing in the Armed Forces, including anonymous
8 reporting procedures; and

9 (4) to respond to and resolve alleged hazing in-
10 cidents involving members of the Armed Forces, in-
11 cluding the prosecution of offenders through the use
12 of punitive articles under chapter 47 of title 10,
13 United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military
14 Justice).

15 (b) DATABASE.—The plan required by subsection (a)
16 shall include the establishment of a database for the pur-
17 pose of improving the ability of the Department of De-
18 fense—

19 (1) to determine the extent to which hazing in-
20 cidents involving members of the Armed Forces are
21 occurring and the nature of such hazing incidents;
22 and

23 (2) to track, respond to, and resolve hazing in-
24 cidents involving members of the Armed Forces.

1 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—As part of the briefing re-
2 quired by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall
3 provide the following:

4 (1) Recommendations for a universal definition
5 of “hazing” to be used by all the Armed Forces.

6 (2) Such recommendations for changes to the
7 Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Manual
8 for Courts-Martial as the Secretary considers nec-
9 essary to improve the prosecution of hazing inci-
10 dents.

11 (d) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall
12 prepare the plan, database, and recommendations required
13 by this section in consultation with the Secretaries of the
14 military departments.

15 (e) HAZING DESCRIBED.—For purposes of carrying
16 out this section, the Secretary of Defense shall use the
17 definition of hazing contained in the August 28, 1997,
18 Secretary of Defense Policy Memorandum, which defined
19 hazing as any conduct whereby a member of the Armed
20 Forces, regardless of branch or rank, without proper au-
21 thority causes another member to suffer, or be exposed
22 to, any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, op-
23 pressive, demeaning, or harmful. Soliciting or coercing an-
24 other person to perpetrate any such activity is also consid-
25 ered hazing. Hazing need not involve physical contact

- 1 among or between members of the Armed Forces. Hazing
- 2 can be verbal or psychological in nature.

