

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1892

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who were stationed at or underwent training at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 20, 2013

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who were stationed at or underwent training at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, 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. CANADIAN FORCES BASE GAGETOWN REG-**
4 **ISTRY.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain a registry
8 to be known as the “Canadian Forces Base Gagetown

1 Health Registry” (in this section referred to as the “Reg-
2 istry”).

3 (b) CONTENTS.—Except as provided in subsection
4 (c), the Registry shall include the following information:

5 (1) A list containing the name of each indi-
6 vidual who—

7 (A) while serving as a member of the
8 Armed Forces, was stationed at or underwent
9 training at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown,
10 New Brunswick, Canada, at any time during
11 the period beginning on January 1, 1956, and
12 ending on December 31, 2006; and

13 (B)(i) applies for care or services from the
14 Department of Veterans Affairs under chapter
15 17 of title 38, United States Code;

16 (ii) files a claim for compensation under
17 chapter 11 of such title on the basis of any dis-
18 ability that may be associated with such service;

19 (iii) dies and is survived by a spouse, child,
20 or parent who files a claim for dependency and
21 indemnity compensation under chapter 13 of
22 such title on the basis of such service;

23 (iv) requests from the Secretary a health
24 examination under subsection (d)(1); or

1 (v)(I) receives from the Secretary a health
 2 examination similar to the health examination
 3 under subsection (d)(1); and

4 (II) submits to the Secretary a request to
 5 be included in the Registry.

6 (2) Relevant medical data relating to the health
 7 status of, and other information that the Secretary
 8 considers relevant and appropriate with respect to,
 9 each individual described in paragraph (1) who—

10 (A) grants to the Secretary permission to
 11 include such information in the Registry; or

12 (B) at the time the name of the individual
 13 is added to the Registry, is deceased.

14 (c) INDIVIDUALS SUBMITTING CLAIMS OR MAKING
 15 REQUESTS BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—If an appli-
 16 cation, claim, or request referred to in paragraph (1) of
 17 subsection (b) was submitted, filed, or made with respect
 18 to an individual described in that paragraph before the
 19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, to
 20 the extent feasible, include in the Registry the information
 21 described in that subsection relating to that individual.

22 (d) EXAMINATIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of an indi-
 24 vidual described in subsection (b)(1)(A), the Sec-
 25 retary shall provide the individual with—

1 (A) a health examination (including any
2 appropriate diagnostic tests); and

3 (B) consultation and counseling with re-
4 spect to the results of the examination and
5 tests.

6 (2) CONSULTATION AND COUNSELING TO FAM-
7 ILY MEMBERS.—In the case of an individual de-
8 scribed in subsection (b)(1)(A) who is deceased,
9 upon the request of a spouse, child, or parent of that
10 individual, the Secretary shall provide that spouse,
11 child, or parent with consultation and counseling
12 with respect to the results of the examination and
13 tests under paragraph (1)(A) or the results of an ex-
14 amination similar to that examination with respect
15 to that individual.

16 (e) OUTREACH.—

17 (1) ONGOING OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS LIST-
18 ED IN THE REGISTRY.—The Secretary shall, from
19 time to time, notify individuals listed in the Registry
20 of significant developments in research on the health
21 consequences of potential exposure to a toxic sub-
22 stance or environmental hazard related to service at
23 Canadian Forces Base Gagetown.

24 (2) EXAMINATION OUTREACH.—The Secretary
25 shall carry out appropriate outreach activities with

1 respect to the provision of any health examinations
2 (including any diagnostic tests) and consultation and
3 counseling services under subsection (d).

4 (f) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INFORMATION.—The
5 Secretary of Defense shall furnish to the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs such information maintained by the Sec-
7 retary of Defense as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs con-
8 siders necessary to establish and maintain the Registry.

9 (g) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
11 Affairs shall provide for a study on the potential ex-
12 posure of individuals to toxic substances or environ-
13 mental hazards related to service at Canadian
14 Forces Base Gagetown at any time during the pe-
15 riod beginning on January 1, 1956, and ending on
16 December 31, 2006.

17 (2) INDEPENDENT ENTITY.—The study re-
18 quired by paragraph (1) shall be carried out by an
19 entity that—

20 (A) has experience conducting studies with
21 respect to the exposure of individuals to toxic
22 substances or environmental hazards; and

23 (B) is not affiliated with the Department
24 of Veterans Affairs.

1 (3) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.—The study
2 required by paragraph (1) shall be completed not
3 later than one year after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act.

5 (h) ANNUAL REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each
8 year thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
10 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
11 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the
12 Registry.

13 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-
14 graph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) The number of veterans included in
16 the Registry.

17 (B) Any trend in claims for compensation
18 under chapter 11 or 13 of title 38, United
19 States Code, with respect to veterans included
20 in the Registry.

21 (C) A description of the outreach efforts
22 made by the Secretary under subsection (e)
23 during the one-year period ending on the date
24 of such report.

- 1 (D) Such other matters as the Secretary
- 2 considers appropriate.

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