

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2703

To establish eligibility, assignment, training, and certification requirements for sexual assault forensic examiners for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2014

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish eligibility, assignment, training, and certification requirements for sexual assault forensic examiners for 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Military SAFE Stand-
5 ards Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT**

7 **FORENSIC EXAMINERS FOR THE ARMED**
8 **FORCES.**

9 (a) **PERSONNEL ELIGIBLE FOR ASSIGNMENT.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), the individuals who may be assigned to
3 duty as a sexual assault forensic examiner (SAFE)
4 for the Armed Forces shall be members of the
5 Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the Depart-
6 ment of Defense or Department of Homeland Secu-
7 rity who are as follows:

8 (A) Physicians.

9 (B) Nurse practitioners.

10 (C) Nurse midwives.

11 (D) Physician assistants.

12 (E) Registered nurses.

13 (2) INDEPENDENT DUTY CORPSMEN.—An inde-
14 pendent duty corpsman or equivalent may be as-
15 signed to duty as a sexual assault forensic examiner
16 for the Armed Forces if the assignment of an indi-
17 vidual specified in paragraph (1) is impracticable.

18 (b) AVAILABILITY OF EXAMINERS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
20 shall ensure the availability of an adequate number
21 of sexual assault forensic examiners for the Armed
22 Forces through the following:

23 (A) Assignment of at least one sexual as-
24 sault forensic examiner at each military medical
25 treatment facility under the jurisdiction of such

1 Secretary, whether in the United States or
2 overseas.

3 (B) If assignment as described in subpara-
4 graph (A) is infeasible or impracticable, entry
5 into agreements with facilities, whether Govern-
6 mental or otherwise, with appropriate resources
7 for the provision of sexual assault forensic ex-
8 aminations, for the provision of sexual assault
9 forensic examinations for the Armed Forces.

10 (2) NAVAL VESSELS.—The Secretary concerned
11 shall ensure the availability of an adequate number
12 of sexual assault forensic examiners for naval vessels
13 through the assignment of at least one sexual as-
14 sault forensic examiner for each naval vessel.

15 (c) TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned
17 shall establish and maintain, and update when ap-
18 propriate, a training and certification program for
19 sexual assault forensic examiners under the jurisdic-
20 tion of such Secretary. The training and certification
21 programs shall apply uniformly to all sexual assault
22 forensic examiners under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
23 retaries.

1 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each training and certifi-
2 cation program under this subsection shall include
3 the following:

4 (A) Training in sexual assault forensic ex-
5 aminations by qualified personnel who pos-
6 sess—

7 (i) a Sexual Assault Nurse Exam-
8 iner—adolescent/adult (SANE–A) certifi-
9 cation or equivalent certification; or

10 (ii) training and clinical or forensic
11 experience in sexual assault forensic exami-
12 nations similar to that required for a cer-
13 tification described in clause (i).

14 (B) A minimum of 40 hours of coursework
15 for participants in sexual assault forensic ex-
16 aminations of adults and adolescents.

17 (C) Ongoing examinations and evaluations
18 on sexual assault forensic examinations.

19 (D) Clinical mentoring.

20 (E) Continuing education.

21 (3) NATURE OF TRAINING.—The training pro-
22 vided under each training and certification program
23 under this subsection shall incorporate and reflect
24 current best practices and standards on sexual as-
25 sault forensic examinations.

1 (4) APPLICABILITY OF TRAINING REQUIRE-
2 MENTS.—An individual may not be assigned to duty
3 as a sexual assault forensic examiner for the Armed
4 Forces after the date that is one year after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act unless the individual
6 has completed all training required under the train-
7 ing and certification program under this subsection
8 at the time of assignment.

9 (5) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CERTIFICATION.—
10 It is the sense of Congress that each participant who
11 successfully completes all training required under
12 the certification and training program under this
13 subsection should obtain a Sexual Assault Nurse Ex-
14 aminer—adolescent/adult certification or equivalent
15 certification by not later than five years after com-
16 pletion of such training.

17 (6) EXAMINERS UNDER AGREEMENTS.—Any in-
18 dividual providing sexual assault forensic examina-
19 tions for the Armed Forces under an agreement
20 under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall possess training
21 and experience equivalent to the training and experi-
22 ence required under the training and certification
23 program under this subsection.

24 (d) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-
25 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” means—

1 (1) the Secretary of Defense with respect to
2 matters concerning the Department of Defense; and

3 (2) the Secretary of Homeland Security with re-
4 spect to matters concerning the Coast Guard when
5 it is not operating as a service in the Navy.

6 (e) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REQUIREMENTS.—Sec-
7 tion 1725 of the National Defense Authorization Act for
8 Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 971) is
9 amended by striking subsection (b) (10 U.S.C. 1561 note).

○