

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6959

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. WENSTRUP) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, 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 “Burn Pit Registry En-
5 hancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BURN PIT REGISTRY UPDATES.**

7 (a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions nec-
4 essary to ensure that the burn pit registry may be
5 updated with the cause of death of a deceased reg-
6 istered individual by—

7 (A) an individual designated by such de-
8 ceased registered individual; or

9 (B) if no such individual is designated, an
10 immediate family member of such deceased reg-
11 istered individual.

12 (2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall pro-
13 vide, with respect to the burn pit registry, a process
14 by which a registered individual may make a des-
15 ignation for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

16 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The term “burn pit registry” means the
18 registry established under section 201 of the Dig-
19 nified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improve-
20 ment Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C.
21 527 note).

22 (2) The term “immediate family member”, with
23 respect to a deceased individual, means—

24 (A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or
25 adult child of the individual;

1 (B) an adult person to whom the indi-
2 vidual stands in loco parentis; or

3 (C) any other adult person—

4 (i) living in the household of the indi-
5 vidual at the time of the death of the indi-
6 vidual; and

7 (ii) related to the individual by blood
8 or marriage.

9 (3) The term “registered individual” means an
10 individual registered with the burn pit registry.

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