

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 657

To modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2021

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE**
2 **CONNECTION FOR VETERANS WHO WERE EX-**
3 **POSED TO HERBICIDE AGENTS WHILE SERV-**
4 **ING IN THE ARMED FORCES IN THAILAND**
5 **DURING THE VIETNAM ERA.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
7 shall ensure that if the Secretary creates a presumption
8 of service connection between the occurrence of a disease
9 and exposure to a herbicide agent while serving in the
10 Armed Forces during the covered period at a military base
11 in Thailand, such presumption also applies to exposure to
12 a herbicide agent while serving in the Armed Forces dur-
13 ing the covered period at any military base located in
14 Thailand without regard to where on the base the veteran
15 was located or what military job specialty the veteran per-
16 formed.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) COVERED PERIOD.—The term “covered pe-
19 riod” means the period beginning on January 9,
20 1962, and ending on June 30, 1976.

21 (2) HERBICIDE AGENT.—The term “herbicide
22 agent” has the meaning given such term in section
23 1116(a) of title 38, United States Code.

1 (3) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
2 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38,
3 United States Code.

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