

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8484--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

May 16, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. STERN, SCHIAVONI, GRIFFIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to establishing a hazardous substance exposure registry

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 29-f to read as follows:

3 § 29-f. Hazardous substance exposure registry. 1. The commissioner  
4 shall on a continuous basis, and in consultation with the commissioner  
5 of health, the commissioner of environmental conservation, and the adju-  
6 tant general:

7 (a) identify all current or former military installations located  
8 within the state where service members, veterans, or their families, are  
9 known or more likely than not to have been at risk of exposure to a  
10 hazardous substance identified in paragraph (b) of this subdivision.  
11 Such military installations shall at a minimum include any such instal-  
12 lation registered as an inactive hazardous waste disposal site or brown-  
13 field cleanup site under titles thirteen and fourteen of article twen-  
14 ty-seven of the environmental conservation law respectively or  
15 registered under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response,  
16 Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. § 21 9601 et seq.); and

17 (b) identify hazardous substances at such military installations, with  
18 consideration given to substances hazardous or acutely hazardous to  
19 public health, safety or the environment as defined in section 37-0103  
20 of the environmental conservation law, and any medical conditions that  
21 may be associated with exposure to them.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 2. The commissioner shall establish a registry of self-identifying  
2 service members, veterans and family members of such individuals who may  
3 have experienced exposure to a hazardous substance at a military instal-  
4 lation identified in subdivision one of this section that shall include:

5 (a) the person's name, address, electronic mail address, and phone  
6 number;

7 (b) the location of the military installation and time period the  
8 person served, worked, or lived at such installation;

9 (c) any medical condition or death of a service member, veteran or  
10 family member of such individual that may be related to exposure to a  
11 hazardous substance identified in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of  
12 this section; and

13 (d) any other information determined relevant by the commissioner.

14 3. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of health,  
15 the commissioner of environmental conservation, and the adjutant gener-  
16 al, shall establish and maintain a public information program in order  
17 to educate and inform service members, veterans, and their families  
18 regarding:

19 (a) participation in the registry established pursuant to subdivision  
20 two of this section;

21 (b) participation in the health registries maintained by the United  
22 States department of veterans affairs, including the:

23 (i) Agent Orange Registry;

24 (ii) Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry;

25 (iii) Gulf War Registry;

26 (iv) Ionizing Radiation Registry;

27 (v) Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program; and

28 (vi) Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center;

29 (c) information regarding presumptive conditions or diseases deter-  
30 mined to be associated with toxic exposure by the United States depart-  
31 ment of veterans affairs;

32 (d) the most recent scientific developments on the health effects of  
33 exposures to hazardous substances identified in paragraph (b) of subdivi-  
34 sion one of this section, and toxic exposure including exposure to  
35 open burn pit smoke or other airborne hazards;

36 (e) the process for applying to the United States department of veter-  
37 ans affairs for service-connected disability compensation for an illness  
38 or condition that may be related to an exposure to a hazardous substance  
39 identified in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of this section or toxic  
40 exposure, including the methods for documenting the illness or condi-  
41 tion; and

42 (f) appealing an existing disability rating decision or requesting an  
43 upgrade in disability rating from the United States department of veter-  
44 ans affairs.

45 4. The commissioner shall make the aggregate data compiled under  
46 subdivision two of this section publicly available on the department's  
47 website and upon determining there is sufficient data, the commissioner  
48 shall prepare or cause to be prepared a study containing:

49 (a) an analysis of such aggregate data;

50 (b) a description of the types and incidences of medical conditions or  
51 deaths reported under subdivision two of this section;

52 (c) any explanations for the incidence of medical conditions and any  
53 other reasonable explanations for the incidence of such conditions; and

54 (d) any other information or opinions regarding any association  
55 between such conditions and exposures to hazardous substances identified

1 in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of this section that the commission-  
2 er may determine to be relevant.

3 5. The commissioner shall use the information collected under subdivi-  
4 sions one and two of this section, and if applicable, the study prepared  
5 under subdivision four of this section to:

6 (a) notify, to the extent practicable, any affected service members,  
7 veterans, and family members of such individuals of the risk of expo-  
8 sure to hazardous substances identified in paragraph (b) of subdivision  
9 one of this section at a military installation identified under subdivi-  
10 sion one of this section; and

11 (b) advocate when necessary, at the federal level for veterans,  
12 service members and their families who have suffered exposures to  
13 hazardous substances identified in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of  
14 this section including, if appropriate, seeking recognition for new  
15 presumptions of exposure to hazardous substances and service connection  
16 for disabilities related to such exposures.

17 6. The information provided to the department pursuant to subdivision  
18 two of this section shall be protected as personal confidential informa-  
19 tion under article six-A of the public officers law against disclosure  
20 of confidential material and be used only for the purposes described in  
21 this section. Any publication of the study described in subdivision four  
22 of this section shall not include personally identifying information of  
23 registry participants.

24 7. As used in this section the following terms shall have the follow-  
25 ing meanings:

26 (a) "military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard,  
27 center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the  
28 jurisdiction of the United States department of defense or the United  
29 States department of homeland security with respect to installations of  
30 the United States coast guard, or the division of military and naval  
31 affairs including any leased facility;

32 (b) "toxic exposure" shall have the same meaning as such term is  
33 defined in section 101 of title 38 of the United States Code;

34 (c) "service member" means a person who is currently serving in the  
35 uniformed services of the United States or in a "force of the organized  
36 militia" as such term is defined in section one of the military law; and

37 (d) "veteran" shall mean a person who served on active duty in the  
38 uniformed services, or a person who served in a "force of the organized  
39 militia" as such term is defined in section one of the military law,  
40 regardless of discharge status.

41 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
42 have become a law.