

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2078

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2023

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) 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 take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with the cause of death of a registered individual, 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) BURN PIT REGISTRY.—The term “burn pit
18 registry” means the registry established under sec-
19 tion 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Vet-
20 erans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public
21 Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

22 (2) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term
23 “immediate family member”, with respect to a de-
24 ceased individual, means—

1 (A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or
2 adult child of the individual;

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

5 (C) any other adult person—

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

9 (ii) related to the individual by blood
10 or marriage.

11 (3) REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “reg-
12 istered individual” means an individual registered
13 with the burn pit registry.

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