

PUBLIC LAW 117-133—JUNE 7, 2022

DR. KATE HENDRICKS THOMAS SUPPORTING
EXPANDED REVIEW FOR VETERANS IN
COMBAT ENVIRONMENTS ACT

Public Law 117–133
117th Congress

An Act

June 7, 2022
[S. 2102]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Dr. Kate
Hendricks
Thomas
Supporting
Expanded
Review for
Veterans In
Combat
Environments
Act.
38 USC 101 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans In Combat Environments Act” or the “Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act”.

SEC. 2. REVISION OF BREAST CANCER MAMMOGRAPHY POLICY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN LOCATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7322 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “The” and inserting “IN GENERAL.—The”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “The” and inserting “STANDARDS FOR SCREENING.—The”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “a record of service in a location and during a period specified in subsection (d),” after “risk factors,”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR SCREENING FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.—The Under Secretary for Health shall ensure that, under the policy developed under subsection (a), any veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, was deployed in support of a contingency operation in a location and during a period specified in subsection (d), is eligible for a mammography screening by a health care provider of the Department.

“(d) LOCATIONS AND PERIODS SPECIFIED.—(1) The locations and periods specified in this subsection are the following:

“(A) Iraq during following periods:

“(i) The period beginning on August 2, 1990, and ending on February 28, 1991.

“(ii) The period beginning on March 19, 2003, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Iraq.

“(B) The Southwest Asia theater of operations, other than Iraq, during the period beginning on August 2, 1990, and ending

Country listing.
Determinations.

on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in such location, including the following locations:

- “(i) Kuwait.
- “(ii) Saudi Arabia.
- “(iii) Oman.
- “(iv) Qatar.

“(C) Afghanistan during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Afghanistan.

“(D) Djibouti during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Djibouti.

“(E) Syria during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Syria.

“(F) Jordan during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Jordan.

“(G) Egypt during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Egypt.

“(H) Lebanon during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Lebanon.

“(I) Yemen during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on such date as the Secretary determines burn pits are no longer used in Yemen.

“(J) Such other locations and corresponding periods as set forth by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry established under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

“(K) Such other locations and corresponding periods as the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, may determine appropriate in a report submitted under paragraph (2).

“(2) Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans In Combat Environments Act, and not less frequently than once every two years thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Congress a report specifying other locations and corresponding periods for purposes of paragraph (1)(K).

Time period.
Reports.

“(3) A location under this subsection shall not include any body of water around or any airspace above such location.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘burn pit’ means an area of land that—

Definition.

“(A) is used for disposal of solid waste by burning in the outdoor air; and

“(B) does not contain a commercially manufactured incinerator or other equipment specifically designed and manufactured for the burning of solid waste.”.

(b) REPORT ON BREAST CANCER RATES FOR VETERANS DEPLOYED TO CERTAIN AREAS.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives

a report that compares the rates of breast cancer among members of the Armed Forces deployed to the locations and during the periods specified in section 7322(d) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), as compared to members of the Armed Forces who were not deployed to those locations during those periods and to the civilian population.

Approved June 7, 2022.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2102:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 168 (2022):

Mar. 24, considered and passed Senate.

May 18, considered and passed House.

DAILY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS (2022):

June 7, Presidential remarks.

