
SENATE BILL 6732

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/19/2006. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to exposure to depleted uranium and other hazardous
2 materials by members and veterans of the national guard; creating new
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply
6 throughout this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1) "Depleted uranium" means uranium containing less uranium-235
8 than the naturally occurring distribution of uranium isotopes.

9 (2) "Eligible member" means a member of the Washington national
10 guard who served in the Persian Gulf war, as provided in RCW 41.04.005,
11 or in an area designated as a combat zone by the president of the
12 United States during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi
13 Freedom.

14 (3) "Military physician" includes a physician who is under contract
15 with the United States department of defense to provide physician
16 services to members of the armed forces.

17 (4) "Veteran" means a veteran, as defined in RCW 41.04.007, who
18 served as an eligible member.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) Beginning October 1, 2006, the
2 adjutant general must assist any eligible member or veteran in
3 obtaining federal treatment services, including the services under (b)
4 of this subsection, who:

5 (i) Has been assigned a risk level I, II, or III for depleted
6 uranium exposure by his or her branch of service;

7 (ii) Is referred by a military physician; or

8 (iii) Has reason to believe that he or she was exposed to depleted
9 uranium during such service.

10 (b) Federal treatment services for eligible members or veterans
11 include a best practice health screening test for exposure to depleted
12 uranium using a bioassay procedure involving sensitive methods capable
13 of detecting depleted uranium at low levels and the use of equipment
14 with the capacity to discriminate between different radioisotopes in
15 naturally occurring levels of uranium and the characteristic ratio and
16 marker for depleted uranium. No state funds may be used to pay for
17 these tests or other federal treatment services.

18 (2) By October 1, 2006, the adjutant general must submit a report
19 to the joint veterans and military affairs committee on the scope and
20 adequacy of training received by members of the Washington national
21 guard on detecting whether their service as eligible members is likely
22 to entail, or to have entailed, exposure to depleted uranium. The
23 report must include an assessment of the feasibility and cost of adding
24 predeployment training concerning potential exposure to depleted
25 uranium and other toxic chemical substances and the precautions
26 recommended under combat and noncombat conditions while in a combat
27 zone.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A task force that studies the health
29 effects of hazardous materials exposure including, but not limited to,
30 depleted uranium, as they relate to military service is created. The
31 task force must:

32 (a) Initiate a health registry for veterans and military personnel
33 returning from Afghanistan, Iraq, or other countries in which depleted
34 uranium or other hazardous materials may be found;

35 (b) Develop a plan for outreach to and follow-up of military
36 personnel;

1 (c) Prepare a report for service members concerning potential
2 exposure to depleted uranium and other toxic chemical substances and
3 the precautions recommended under combat and noncombat conditions while
4 in a combat zone; and

5 (d) Make other recommendations the task force considers
6 appropriate.

7 (2) The task force consists of the following members or their
8 designees:

9 (a) The adjutant general;

10 (b) The director of the department of veterans affairs;

11 (c) The secretary of the department of health;

12 (d) Six members who are members of the legislature, appointed, one
13 each, by the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of
14 representatives, the majority leader of the senate, the minority leader
15 of the senate, the majority leader of the house of representatives, and
16 the minority leader of the house of representatives;

17 (e) Two members who are veterans with knowledge of or experience
18 with exposure to hazardous materials, appointed, one each, by the
19 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of
20 representatives; and

21 (f) Four members who are physicians or scientists with knowledge of
22 or experience in the detection or health effects of exposure to
23 depleted uranium or other hazardous materials, appointed, one each, by
24 the majority leader of the senate, the minority leader of the senate,
25 the majority leader of the house of representatives, and the minority
26 leader of the house of representatives.

27 (3) All appointments to the task force must be made within thirty
28 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies must be filled by
29 the appointing authority.

30 (4) Task force members must select as cochairs one senator and one
31 representative from among the members appointed under subsection (2)(d)
32 of this section. The cochairs must schedule the first meeting of the
33 task force within sixty days of the effective date of this act.

34 (5) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the staff
35 of the joint veterans and military affairs committee.

36 (6) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
37 travel expenses under RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members, except

1 those representing an employer or organization, are entitled to be
2 reimbursed for travel expenses under RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

3 (7) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
4 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
5 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
6 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
7 successor committees.

8 (8) By January 31, 2007, the task force must submit a report on its
9 findings and recommendations to the appropriate committees of the
10 legislature.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires January 31, 2007.

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