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AN ACT

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS; CREATING THE SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT JESSEY BACA MILITARY AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN
PIT REGISTRY ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Senior Master Sergeant Jessey Baca Military Airborne Hazards
and Open Burn Pit Registry Act".

SECTION 2. MILITARY AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT
REGISTRY--CREATION--DUTIES.--For the purposes of outreach,
education and advocacy for New Mexico service members and
veterans who have been exposed to open burn pit smoke or
other airborne hazards during their service in operation
Iraqi freedom, operation enduring freedom, operation new
dawn, the Gulf War 1990-1991 or other conflicts or theaters
that may subsequently be identified, the secretary of
veterans' services shall:

A. identify a subject-matter expert at the United
States department of veterans affairs who has the ability and
capacity to assist veterans seeking medical care or
assistance with the department of veterans affairs' claims
process;

B. make available to veterans the most current
medical studies and recommendations with regards to
inhalation of toxic substances due to exposure to open burn
pits; and

1 C. establish and maintain a public information
2 program to educate and inform service members, veterans and
3 their families regarding:

4 (1) how to sign up and use the United States
5 department of veterans affairs burn pit registry and
6 information regarding the veterans health administration's
7 presumptive conditions or diseases believed to have been
8 caused by exposure to open burn pits;

9 (2) the types of treatment offered by the
10 veterans health administration that are available for any
11 conditions or diseases caused by exposure to open burn pits
12 and care offered outside the veterans health administration
13 that have been approved for medical use;

14 (3) how to document medical conditions that
15 may be related to exposure to open burn pits and how to apply
16 for a service-connected disability through the United States
17 department of veterans affairs; and

18 (4) appealing an existing disability rating
19 decision or requesting an upgrade in disability rating from
20 the United States department of veterans affairs.

21 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
22 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015. _____
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