CHAPTER 94

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
inhale toxic substances due to open burn pits; and

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.
John A. Sanchez, President
Senate

Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate

Don L. Tripp, Speaker
House of Representatives

Denise Ramonas, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

Approved by me this 8th day of April, 2015

Governor Susana Martinez
State of New Mexico