

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4542

To provide an improved system of health-related information for Persian Gulf War veterans and to extend the availability of certain health care for Persian Gulf War Veterans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 1994

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HOCHBRUECKNER, Mr. MONTGOMERY, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide an improved system of health-related information for Persian Gulf War veterans and to extend the availability of certain health care for Persian Gulf War Veterans.

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 "Persian Gulf War Vet-  
5 erans Health and Services Enhancement Act".

1 **SEC. 2. TOLL-FREE HOTLINE FOR PERSIAN GULF WAR VET-**  
2 **ERAN HEALTH INFORMATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
4 shall maintain an information system involving the use of  
5 a toll-free telephone number to provide veterans of the  
6 Persian Gulf War and their family members (and other  
7 members of the public at the Secretary’s discretion) with  
8 information regarding the following:

9 (1) The Persian Gulf War Veterans Health  
10 Registry established by the Persian Gulf War Veter-  
11 ans’ Health Status Act (38 U.S.C. 527 note).

12 (2) Access to health services and health-related  
13 benefits provided by or under the auspices of the  
14 Department of Veterans Affairs, including—

15 (A) marriage and family counseling avail-  
16 able under section 121 of the Veterans’ Medical  
17 Programs Amendments of 1992 (38 U.S.C.  
18 1712A note);

19 (B) health care available under section  
20 1710(e)(1)(C) of title 38, United States Code;  
21 and

22 (C) health examinations, consultation, and  
23 counseling available under section 703 of the  
24 Persian Gulf War Veterans’ Health Status Act  
25 (38 U.S.C. 527 note).

1           (3) Compensation and benefits related to dis-  
2           abilities resulting from service in the Persian Gulf  
3           War, including disabilities resulting from illness that  
4           resulted from such service.

5           (4) Significant developments in research relat-  
6           ing to the health consequences of service in the Per-  
7           sian Gulf War.

8           (5) Any other information that the Secretary  
9           determines to be appropriate.

10          (b) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION  
11          SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall estab-  
12          lish the information system required by subsection (a) not  
13          later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this  
14          Act.

15          **SEC. 3. OUTREACH TO VETERANS OF PERSIAN GULF WAR.**

16          Section 702(f) of the Persian Gulf War Veterans'  
17          Health Status Act (38 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended to  
18          read as follows:

19               “(f) ONGOING OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS LISTED  
20          IN REGISTRY.—

21                       “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
22          Affairs shall notify each individual listed in the Reg-  
23          istry, or, in the case of such an individual who is de-  
24          ceased, the surviving spouse, children, or parents of  
25          such individual, at least quarterly, by newsletter or

1 by other means that the Secretary determines to be  
2 appropriate, of—

3 “(A) the status and findings of federally  
4 sponsored research relating to the illnesses of  
5 individuals who served as members of the  
6 Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf theater of  
7 operations during the Persian Gulf War or to  
8 the illnesses of the family members of such in-  
9 dividuals;

10 “(B) compensation and benefits, including  
11 health care and other health-related benefits,  
12 that may be provided by the Department of  
13 Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense  
14 to an individual who served as a member of the  
15 Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf theater of  
16 operations during the Persian Gulf War or, in  
17 the case of such an individual who is deceased,  
18 to the surviving spouse, children, or parents of  
19 such an individual; and

20 “(C) any other information that the Sec-  
21 retary determines to be appropriate.

22 “(2) CONSULTATION WITH VETERANS SERVICE  
23 ORGANIZATIONS.—In preparing the newsletter or  
24 other means used to conduct the notification re-  
25 quired by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Veterans

1 Affairs shall consult with veterans' service organiza-  
2 tions.

3 “(3) DATE THAT QUARTERLY NOTIFICATIONS  
4 BEGIN.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall  
5 make the first of the periodic notifications required  
6 by paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the  
7 date of the enactment of the Persian Gulf War Vet-  
8 erans Health and Services Enhancement Act.”.

9 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PRIORITY**  
10 **HEALTH CARE TO VETERANS OF THE PER-**  
11 **SIAN GULF WAR.**

12 (a) HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME CARE.—Section  
13 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
14 by striking “December 31, 1994” and inserting “Decem-  
15 ber 31, 1998”.

16 (b) OUTPATIENT CARE.—Section 1712(a)(1)(D) of  
17 title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “De-  
18 cember 31, 1994” and inserting “December 31, 1998”.

19 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSEL-**  
20 **ING AVAILABILITY FOR PERSIAN GULF WAR**  
21 **VETERANS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 121(a) of the Veterans'  
23 Medical Programs Amendments of 1992 (38 U.S.C.  
24 1712A note) is amended by striking “September 30,  
25 1994” and inserting “December 31, 1998”.

1       (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
2 121(g) of the Veterans' Medical Programs Amendments  
3 of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking  
4 “and 1994” and inserting “through 1999”.

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