

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for veterans who served in close proximity to the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for veterans who served in close proximity to the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

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 “Veterans Agent Or-
5 ange Exposure Equity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DIS-**
2 **EASES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO CER-**
3 **TAIN HERBICIDE AGENTS FOR VETERANS**
4 **WHO SERVED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE**
5 **REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1116 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by striking “, during active military, naval,
9 or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam
10 during the period beginning on January 9, 1962,
11 and ending on May 7, 1975” each place it appears
12 and inserting “performed covered service”;

13 (2) by striking “performed active military,
14 naval, or air service in the Republic of Vietnam dur-
15 ing the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and
16 ending on May 7, 1975” each place it appears by and
17 inserting “performed covered service”;

18 (3) by striking subsections (b) through (e) and
19 redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (b); and

20 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
21 section:

22 “(c) In this section, the term ‘covered service’ means
23 active military, naval, or air service—

24 “(1) performed in the Republic of Vietnam dur-
25 ing the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and
26 ending on May 7, 1975;

1 “(2) performed in Thailand—

2 “(A) at a United States Army base or
3 Royal Thai Air Force base during the period
4 beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on
5 May 7, 1975; or

6 “(B) at the Royal Thai Army Replacement
7 Training Center, Pramburi Military Reservation
8 during the period beginning January 1, 1964,
9 and ending on April 30, 1964;

10 “(3) performed in Laos during the period be-
11 ginning on December 1, 1965, and ending on Sep-
12 tember 30, 1969; or

13 “(4) performed in Cambodia at Mimot or Krek,
14 Kompon Cham Province during the period beginning
15 on April 16, 1969, and ending on April 30, 1969.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

17 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for sec-
18 tion 1116 is amended by inserting “, **or in close**
19 **proximity to,**” before “**the Republic of Viet-**
20 **nam**”.

21 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
22 at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is
23 amended by striking the item relating to section
24 1116 and inserting the following new item:

“1116. Presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents; presumption of exposure for veterans who served in, or in close proximity to, the Republic of Vietnam”.