

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 554

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with the cause of death of a registered individual, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with the cause of death of a registered individual, 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 “Burn Pit Registry En-  
5       hancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. UPDATES OF BURN PIT REGISTRY ESTABLISHED**  
2 **AND MAINTAINED BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions nec-  
8 essary to ensure that the burn pit registry may be  
9 updated with the cause of death of a deceased reg-  
10 istered individual by—

11 (A) an individual designated by such de-  
12 ceased registered individual; or

13 (B) if no such individual is designated, an  
14 immediate family member of such deceased reg-  
15 istered individual.

16 (2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall pro-  
17 vide, with respect to the burn pit registry, a process  
18 by which a registered individual may make a des-  
19 ignation for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

20 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) The term “burn pit registry” means the  
22 registry established under section 201 of the Dig-  
23 nified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improve-  
24 ment Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C.  
25 527 note).

1           (2) The term “immediate family member”, with  
2           respect to a deceased individual, means—

3                   (A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or  
4                   adult child of the individual;

5                   (B) an adult person to whom the indi-  
6                   vidual stands in loco parentis; or

7                   (C) any other adult person—

8                           (i) living in the household of the indi-  
9                           vidual at the time of the death of the indi-  
10                          vidual; and

11                           (ii) related to the individual by blood  
12                          or marriage.

13           (3) The term “registered individual” means an  
14           individual registered with the burn pit registry.

○