

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7524

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study the incidence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served in the Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps as aircrew.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2022

Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study the incidence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served in the Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps as aircrew.

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 “Aviator Cancer Exam-  
5 ination Study Act” or the “ACES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY OF CANCER**  
2 **AMONG AIRCREW OF THE NAVY, AIR FORCE,**  
3 **AND MARINE CORPS.**

4 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans  
6 Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Na-  
7 tional Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
8 under which the National Academies shall conduct a study  
9 of the incidence and mortality of cancers among covered  
10 individuals.

11 (b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study under sub-  
12 section (a) shall include the following:

13 (1) Identification of chemicals, compounds,  
14 agents, and other phenomena that cause elevated  
15 cancer incidence and mortality risks among covered  
16 individuals, including a nexus study design to deter-  
17 mine whether there is a scientifically established  
18 causal link between such a chemical, compound,  
19 agent, or other phenomena and such cancer inci-  
20 dence or mortality risk.

21 (2) An assessment of not fewer than 10 types  
22 of cancer that are of the greatest concern with re-  
23 spect to exposure by covered individuals to the  
24 chemicals, compounds, agents, and other phenomena  
25 identified under paragraph (1), which may include  
26 colon and rectum cancers, pancreatic cancer, mela-

1 noma skin cancer, prostate cancer, testis cancer, uri-  
2 nary bladder cancer, kidney cancer, brain cancer,  
3 thyroid cancer, lung cancer, and non-Hodgkin  
4 lymphoma.

5 (3) A review of all available sources of relevant  
6 data, including health care databases of the Depart-  
7 ment of Veterans Affairs and the Department of De-  
8 fense and the national death index, and the study  
9 conducted under section 750 of the William M.  
10 (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization  
11 Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 134  
12 Stat. 3716).

13 (c) SUBMISSION.—

14 (1) STUDY.—Upon completion of the study  
15 under subsection (a), the National Academies shall  
16 submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Sec-  
17 retary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the  
18 Secretary of the Air Force, and the Committees on  
19 Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives  
20 and the Senate the study.

21 (2) REPORT.—Not later than December 31,  
22 2025, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit  
23 to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House  
24 of Representatives and the Senate a report on the  
25 study under subsection (a), including—

1 (A) the specific actions the Secretary is  
2 taking to ensure that the study informs the  
3 evaluation of disability claims made to the Sec-  
4 retary, including with respect to providing guid-  
5 ance to claims examiners and revising the  
6 schedule of ratings for disabilities under chap-  
7 ter 11 of title 38, United States Code; and

8 (B) any recommendations of the Secretary.

9 (3) FORM.—The report under paragraph (2)  
10 shall be submitted in unclassified form.

11 (d) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-  
12 tion, the term “covered individual” means an individual  
13 who served in the regular or reserve components of the  
14 Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps, as an air crew member  
15 of a fixed-wing aircraft or personnel supporting generation  
16 of the aircraft, including pilots, navigators, weapons sys-  
17 tems operators, aircraft system operators, personnel asso-  
18 ciated with aircraft maintenance, supply, logistics, fuels,  
19 or transportation, and any other crew member who regu-  
20 larly flew in an aircraft or was required to complete the  
21 mission of the aircraft.

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