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119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 11156

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to review the presumptions of service connection for chronic diseases, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 24, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. LAWLER) 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 review the presumptions of service connection for chronic diseases, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REVIEW OF PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR CHRONIC DISEASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Na-

tional Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (in this section referred to as the ''National Academies'') under which the National Academies shall conduct a review of the presumptions of service connection under the laws administered by the Secretary for chronic diseases.

(b) REVIEW.—Pursuant to an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section, the National Academies shall—

(1) review each chronic disease for which there is a presumption of service connection under section 1112 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) assess whether scientific research indicates that any such disease takes longer to manifest than was recognized as of the date on which the presumption was established and whether such research supports extending the period following separation from service within which such disease must manifest for the presumption to apply; and

(3) assess whether any chronic disease other than a chronic disease specified in section 1101(3) of title 38, United States Code, warrants a presumption of service connection under section 1112 of such title.

(c) REPORT.—Pursuant to an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section,

not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall submit to the Secretary and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that contains the findings of the review under this section and any recommendations for legislative or administrative changes based on such findings.

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