

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 15, 2022

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact S. 3541, H.R. 6659, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act, or similar legislation that would expand VA health care for post-9/11 veterans that were exposed to burn pits

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/uw



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 15, 2022

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Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

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Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)
3-15-22

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ENACT S. 3541, H.R. 6659, THE HEALTH CARE FOR
BURN PIT VETERANS ACT, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION
THAT WOULD EXPAND VA HEALTH CARE FOR POST-9/11
VETERANS THAT WERE EXPOSED TO BURN PITS

WHEREAS, burn pits are sites devoted to the open-air combustion of waste; and

WHEREAS, burn pits have been employed by the United States military for decades; and

WHEREAS, millions of veterans joined the United States military following the attacks
of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, over 3.5 million of these veterans were exposed to burn pits, which have been
linked to a number of adverse health effects, including certain cancers; and

WHEREAS, many of these veterans currently do not have access to Department of
Veterans Affairs (VA) health care; and

WHEREAS, numerous veterans reside in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, on February 1st, 2022, Senators Jon Tester (D – Montana) and Jerry Moran
(R – Kansas) introduced S. 3541, a bill entitled the Health Care for Burn Pits Veterans Act, for
consideration during the 117th Congress; and

WHEREAS, on February 9th, 2022, United States Representative Mike Bost (R – Illinois)
introduced H.R. 6695, the companion bill to S. 3541; and

WHEREAS, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act would expand VA health care for
post-9/11 combat veterans—including those suffering from conditions related to toxic exposure;
and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act would extend the period of health care eligibility for combat veterans who served after September 11, 2001, from five years to ten years following discharge; and

WHEREAS, the bill also includes measures to improve training on toxic exposures for VA employees, mandate clinical toxic exposure screenings, and bolster federal research on the effects of toxic exposures; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to support the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act or similar legislation that would expand VA health care for post-9/11 veterans that were exposed to burn pits,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to enact S. 3541, H.R. 6659, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act, or similar legislation that would expand VA health care for post-9/11 veterans that were exposed to burn pits.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Senator Jon Tester, Senator Jerry Moran, Representative Mike Bost, and the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2022 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman
Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Vice-Chairman

Sen. René García	Keon Hardemon
Sally A. Heyman	Danielle Cohen Higgins
Eileen Higgins	Joe A. Martinez
Kionne L. McGhee	Jean Monestime
Raquel A. Regalado	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 15th day of March, 2022. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Christian J. Fernandez-Andes