



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 431**

*January Session, 2005*

House Bill No. 6008

*House of Representatives, April 19, 2005*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. SAYERS of the 60th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Member of the armed forces" or "member" means a member of  
3 the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the  
4 general statutes, including the Connecticut National Guard, who is a  
5 resident of this state;

6 (2) "Eligible member" means a member who served in the Persian  
7 Gulf War, as defined in 38 USC 101, or in an area designated as a  
8 combat zone by the President of the United States during Operation  
9 Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom;

10 (3) "Veteran" means a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section  
11 27-103 of the general statutes, who served as an eligible member;

12 (4) "Depleted uranium" means uranium containing less uranium-235  
13 than the naturally occurring distribution of uranium isotopes.

14 (b) On and after October 1, 2006, any eligible member or veteran  
15 who returns or returned to this state after service in an area designated  
16 as a combat zone by the President of the United States and who has  
17 been assigned a risk level I or II for depleted uranium exposure by his  
18 or her branch or service, or any other member or veteran who has  
19 reason to believe that he or she was exposed to depleted uranium  
20 during such service, shall have the right to a best practice health  
21 screening test for exposure to depleted uranium using a bioassay  
22 procedure involving sensitive methods capable of detecting depleted  
23 uranium at low levels and the use of equipment with the capacity to  
24 discriminate between different radioisotopes in naturally occurring  
25 levels of uranium and the characteristic ratio and marker for depleted  
26 uranium.

27 (c) On or before October 1, 2005, the Adjutant General shall submit a  
28 report to the select committee of the General Assembly having  
29 cognizance of matters relating to military and veterans' affairs, in  
30 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
31 on the scope and adequacy of training received by members of the  
32 armed forces on detecting whether their service as eligible members is  
33 likely to entail, or to have entailed, exposure to depleted uranium. The  
34 report shall include an assessment of the feasibility and cost of adding  
35 predeployment training concerning potential exposure to depleted  
36 uranium and other toxic chemical substances and the precautions  
37 recommended under combat and noncombat conditions while in a  
38 combat zone.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**VA**      *Joint Favorable C/R*

PH

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Military Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill could result in a significant cost to the state. The bill allows Connecticut National Guard service members who have returned from the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, a best-practice health screening for uranium poisoning. The bill potentially impacts every member of the Connecticut National Guard, an authorized strength of 5,100. Since September 11, 2001 approximately 3,000 members have been mobilized in support of the Global War on Terror. Exposure testing for uranium poisoning is estimated to cost \$1,000 per screen. It is unknown how many individuals would seek a state funded uranium screen but if the number of individuals were numerous, the cost could be significant.

The bill does not clearly identify which agency would be responsible for the cost of the exposure testing. Currently, during the demobilization process, military personnel complete documents from the federal government, to assess their risk of uranium exposure and are screened for potential exposure at the expense of the federal government.

The bill also requires the Adjutant General to submit a report discussing the possibility of predeployment training to identify exposure to uranium. The reporting requirement would increase the workload of the Adjutant General’s office, but is not anticipated to

have a fiscal impact on the state.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6008

***AN ACT CONCERNING EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES*****SUMMARY:**

Under this bill, service members returning, or who returned, from active service in the Persian Gulf War or in a designated combat zone during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom have the right, on and after October 1, 2006, to a best-practice health screening test for uranium poisoning.

By October 1, 2005, the bill requires the adjutant general of the National Guard to submit a report to the Veterans' Committee on the scope and adequacy of the training service members receive to detect whether their service is likely to involve, or to have involved, exposure to depleted uranium. The report must include an assessment of the feasibility and cost of adding predeployment training on potential exposure to depleted uranium and other toxic chemical substances, and the precautions recommended under combat and noncombat conditions in a combat zone.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**URANIUM TEST**

The bill's testing requirement applies to (1) Connecticut residents who are members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Connecticut National Guard, and (2) veterans honorably discharged from active service. Service members must have served in the Persian Gulf War (August 2, 1990 until a date prescribed by the President or federal law) or during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom in an area the President designates as a combat zone.

Beginning September 30, 2006, servicemembers who return, or returned, to Connecticut after such service have the right to a best-practice health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium if they

(1) are assigned a risk level I or II for depleted uranium exposure by their branch of service or (2) have reason to believe they were exposed to depleted uranium. The test must use a bioassay procedure involving methods sensitive enough to detect low levels of depleted uranium. It must use equipment capable of discriminating between different radioisotopes in naturally occurring levels of uranium and the characteristic ratio and marker for depleted uranium. Depleted uranium means uranium containing less uranium-235 than the naturally occurring distribution of uranium isotopes.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bill***

sSB 1245, reported favorably by the Veterans' and Public Health committees, establishes a task force to study the health effects of exposure to hazardous material, including depleted uranium, as they relate to military service, and submit a report to the legislature by January 31, 2006.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
Yea 13    Nay 0

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 26    Nay 0