

# ACT #2022 - 250

1 HJR131

2 218370-2

3 By Representatives Boyd, Paschal, Jones (S), Rafferty, Faust,  
4 McCutcheon, Gaston, Stadthagen, Moore (P), Oliver, Smith,  
5 Brown (C), Crawford, Drake, Ball, Rogers, Robertson, Wood (R),  
6 Howard, Hill, Brown (K), Sanderford, Carns and Grimsley

7 RFD: Rules

8 First Read: 08-MAR-22



1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3                   URGING THE ADOPTION OF PENDING FEDERAL LEGISLATION  
4                   REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HEALTH REGISTRY FOR VETERANS  
5                   SUBJECTED TO TOXIC EXPOSURE AT FORT MCCLELLAN.  
6

7                   WHEREAS, Fort McClellan, located in Anniston,  
8                   Alabama, became a United States Army installation in 1917;  
9                   after World War II, and until its closing in 1999, Fort  
10                   McClellan was home to the Army's Chemical Corps and Chemical  
11                   Weapons School, later known as the Army Chemical Center and  
12                   School; the school offered eight weeks of basic training  
13                   followed by eight weeks of training devoted to chemical  
14                   warfare; in 1953, Fort McClellan secretly conducted Operation  
15                   Top Hat which used military personnel to test exposure and  
16                   decontamination methods that included sulfur, mustard, and  
17                   nerve agents; in 1962, the U.S. Army Combat Development  
18                   Command Chemical Biological-Radiological Agency moved to Fort  
19                   McClellan; Fort McClellan was also the site of open-air burn  
20                   pits that were used in staging the Chemical, Biological,  
21                   Radiological, Nuclear, and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) tests  
22                   until 1975; after a short-term relocation in 1973 to Edgewood  
23                   Arsenal in Maryland, both schools returned to Fort McClellan  
24                   in 1979 and remained there until its closing; and

1           WHEREAS, in a 1998 U.S. Army Environmental Center  
2 study, the Army noted the presence of dangerous contaminants  
3 requiring investigation and clean up prior to transferring the  
4 Fort McClellan property to the public domain; and

5           WHEREAS, in 2005, the National Academy of Medicine  
6 recognized that both the groundwater and soil were  
7 contaminated, finding that there were 67 different disposal  
8 sites at Fort McClellan containing volatile organic compounds  
9 (VOCs), trichloroethylene (TCEs), polychlorinated biphenyls  
10 (PCBs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides,  
11 explosives, heavy metals (Pb), unexploded ordinance (UXO),  
12 radioactive sources, and nonstockpile chemical materials; and

13           WHEREAS, the Veterans Health Administration (VA) has  
14 noted the existence of toxic chemicals used at Fort McClellan  
15 and that potential exposures could have included, but are not  
16 limited to, radioactive compounds (cesium-137 and cobalt-60)  
17 used in decontamination training activities, chemical warfare  
18 agents (mustard gas and nerve agents) used in decontamination  
19 testing, friable indoor asbestos pollution inside barracks  
20 buildings which all required remedial cleanup actions, and a  
21 regional PCB contamination zone in the neighboring town where  
22 Fort McClellan personnel made use of public travel stations  
23 and a retail shopping district; and

24           WHEREAS, the Monsanto Chemical Plant, located south  
25 of Fort McClellan in Anniston, was instrumental in the

1 development and testing of herbicides used during Vietnam and  
2 settled a \$700 million class action lawsuit brought by the  
3 residents of Anniston; the settlement explicitly excluded  
4 those individuals who were exposed to toxic chemicals while in  
5 military service at Fort McClellan; and

6 WHEREAS, while the VA acknowledges the use of toxic  
7 chemicals and potential exposures, the VA does not recognize  
8 any adverse health conditions associated with military service  
9 at Fort McClellan, despite evidence that exposure to high  
10 levels of the aforementioned contaminants has been shown to  
11 cause a variety of adverse health effects; and

12 WHEREAS, legislation relating to exposure of toxins  
13 in the groundwater at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, passed  
14 with bipartisan support from the North Carolina Congressional  
15 delegation; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Legislature urges  
18 Alabama's congressional delegation to support currently  
19 pending federal legislation to study the effects of toxic  
20 exposure during military service at Fort McClellan,  
21 specifically HR 2825, introduced April 22, 2021, directing the  
22 Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a  
23 health registry of veterans stationed at Fort McClellan  
24 between 1935 and 1999, and HR 3967, introduced June 17, 2021,  
25 creating presumptions of service connection of certain

1 disabilities and diseases among veterans stationed at Fort  
2 McClellan.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
4 resolution be provided to each member of the Alabama  
5 Congressional Delegation so that the strong sentiments of this  
6 body may be known.

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*Mac McClatchey*

Speaker of the House of Representatives

*[Signature]*

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was adopted by the House 10-MAR-22.

Jeff Woodard  
Clerk

Senate

29-MAR-22

Adopted

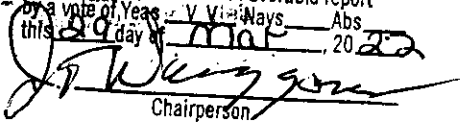
APPROVED

TIME

*Became law  
w/o signature*

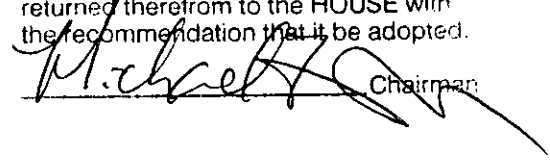
GOVERNOR

Alabama Secretary Of State  
Act Num....: 2022-250  
Bill Num...: HJR-131  
Recv'd 04/06/22 02:08pmSLF

This resolution was referred to the Standing  
Committee of the Senate on Rules  
and was acted upon by such committee in  
Session and by order of the committee  
returned therefrom with a Favorable report  
by a vote of Yeas 11 Nays 0 Abs 0  
this 29 day of Mar, 2022  
  
Chairperson

REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE

This resolution having been referred by  
the House to its standing committee on  
       RULES        was acted upon  
by such committee in session, and  
returned therefrom to the HOUSE with  
the recommendation that it be adopted.

  
Chairman