

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4327

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recognize tinnitus as a mandatory condition for research and treatment by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2012

Mr. MICHAUD (for himself, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. JONES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. MCGOVERN) 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 recognize tinnitus as a mandatory condition for research and treatment by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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 “Tinnitus Research and  
5 Treatment Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT OF TINNITUS AT**  
2 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AUDI-**  
3 **TORY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

4 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall recognize  
5 tinnitus as a mandatory condition for research and treat-  
6 ment by the Department of Veterans Affairs Auditory  
7 Centers of Excellence.

8 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH ON PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF**  
9 **TINNITUS.**

10 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that  
11 research is conducted at Department of Veterans Affairs  
12 facilities on the prevention and treatment of tinnitus. Such  
13 research shall include—

14 (1) an assessment of the efficacy of different  
15 tinnitus treatment modalities on different subsets of  
16 patients;

17 (2) studies on the underlying etiology of  
18 tinnitus in veteran populations that occur as a result  
19 of different causal factors, including blast-related  
20 tinnitus versus other forms of noise-induced tinnitus;  
21 and

22 (3) a study of the causal effects between hear-  
23 ing loss and tinnitus, including cases in which one  
24 or the other condition is present, but not both.

1 **SEC. 4. INTERDEPARTMENTAL COOPERATION.**

2       The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure the  
3 cooperation of the Department of Veterans Affairs with  
4 the Hearing Center of Excellence established by the De-  
5 partment of Defense to further research on tinnitus.

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