

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1114

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide COVID–19 vaccines to an expanded population of veterans during a covered emergency period, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Mr. CRIST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide COVID–19 vaccines to an expanded population of veterans during a covered emergency period, 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 “Vaccines for Veterans
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVID-19 VACCINES FOR EXPANDED POPULATION**
2 **OF VETERANS DURING COVERED EMER-**
3 **GENCY PERIOD.**

4 (a) COVID-19 VACCINES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
6 appropriations, during a covered emergency period,
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may furnish the
8 COVID-19 vaccine to any veteran who was dis-
9 charged from service in the Armed Forces under
10 honorable conditions without regard to whether the
11 veteran is enrolled in the annual patient enrollment
12 system under section 1705 of title 38, United States
13 Code, or otherwise eligible to receive health care
14 services under chapter 17 of such title.

15 (2) STATE GUIDELINES.—In furnishing
16 COVID-19 vaccines pursuant to paragraph (1),
17 each director of a Department of Veterans Affairs
18 health care facility may determine priorities among
19 veterans eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines in
20 accordance with guidelines established by the State
21 in which the facility is located.

22 (b) COORDINATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,
24 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall coordinate
25 with the entities described in paragraph (2), as ap-
26 propriate, to determine—

1 (A) whether an individual seeking to re-
2 ceive a COVID–19 vaccine pursuant this sec-
3 tion meets the requirements of subsection
4 (a)(1); and

5 (B) the relevant prioritization for such in-
6 dividual, in accordance with subsection (a)(2).

7 (2) COORDINATING ENTITIES.—The entities de-
8 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

9 (A) The Secretary of Defense.

10 (B) The Secretary of Health and Human
11 Services.

12 (C) The Director of the Centers for Dis-
13 ease Control and Prevention.

14 (D) The Administrator of the Federal
15 Emergency Management Agency.

16 (E) The heads of State departments of
17 health (or related agencies).

18 (F) Any other Federal agency determined
19 relevant by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) The term “covered emergency period”
22 means a period beginning on the date on which a
23 President declares a national emergency under the
24 National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)
25 with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019

1 (COVID–19) and ending on the date that is 30 days
2 after the date on which such national emergency
3 declaration terminates.

4 (2) The term “covered medical condition”
5 means a medical condition determined by the Direc-
6 tor of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
7 tion to be high risk with respect to COVID–19.

8 (3) The term “COVID–19 vaccine” means any
9 vaccine approved or authorized by the Commissioner
10 of Food and Drugs for COVID–19.

11 (4) The term “State” includes each of the sev-
12 eral States, the District of Columbia, each territory
13 or possession of the United States, and each feder-
14 ally recognized Indian Tribe.

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