

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1276

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, 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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Veterans’ and Caregivers’ COVID–19 Im-
6 munizations Now Expanded Act of 2021” or the “VA
7 VACCINE Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
2 **TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINES TO CER-**
3 **TAIN INDIVIDUALS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 may furnish a COVID-19 vaccine to a covered individual
6 during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

7 (b) VACCINES FURNISHED ABROAD.—In the case of
8 an individual who is a covered individual by reason of sub-
9 section (d)(1)(B), the Secretary may furnish a COVID-
10 19 vaccine to such individual under subsection (a) regard-
11 less of whether the Secretary determines that such vaccine
12 is needed for the treatment of a service-connected dis-
13 ability of the veteran or as part of a rehabilitation pro-
14 gram under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.

15 (c) ENROLLED VETERAN PRIORITY.—In furnishing
16 COVID-19 vaccines, the Secretary shall—

17 (1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who
18 are enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the
19 Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705
20 of title 38, United States Code, over the vaccination
21 of covered individuals under this section; and

22 (2) only furnish such vaccines to covered indi-
23 viduals under this section to the extent that such
24 vaccines are available.

25 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “covered individual” means any of
2 the following:

3 (A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll
4 in the patient enrollment system of the Depart-
5 ment of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of
6 title 38, United States Code.

7 (B) A veteran who is eligible for care
8 under section 1724 of such title.

9 (C) A family caregiver of an eligible vet-
10 eran participating in the program of com-
11 prehensive assistance for family caregivers
12 under section 1720G(a) of such title.

13 (D) A caregiver of a covered veteran par-
14 ticipating in the program of general caregiver
15 support services under section 1720G(b) of
16 such title.

17 (E) A caregiver of a veteran participating
18 in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel
19 and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary
20 Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Pro-
21 gram of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

22 (2) The term “COVID–19” means the
23 coronavirus disease 2019.

24 (3) The term “COVID–19 public health emer-
25 gency” means the public health emergency declared

1 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on
2 January 27, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus
3 disease 2019.

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