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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2911

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to 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 “VA Transparency &
5 Trust Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF CORONAVIRUS**
2 **PANDEMIC FUNDING MADE AVAILABLE TO**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **PLAN AND REPORTS BY SECRETARY.**—

5 (1) **PLAN.**—Not later than 30 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
8 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives
9 and the Senate a detailed plan for obligating and ex-
10 pending covered funds, including a detailed justifica-
11 tion for each type of obligation of such funds.

12 (2) **BIWEEKLY REPORTS.**—Every 14 days dur-
13 ing the period beginning on the date on which the
14 plan under paragraph (1) is submitted and ending
15 seven days after the date on which the Secretary has
16 expended all covered funds, the Secretary shall sub-
17 mit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the
18 House of Representatives and the Senate a report
19 detailing the obligation and expenditure of, and the
20 planned uses for, such funds during the period cov-
21 ered by the report, including a written justification
22 for any deviation in such obligations, expenditures,
23 or planned uses from such plan.

24 (b) **INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.**—Not later than
25 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
26 semiannually thereafter for three years or until the Sec-

1 retary has expended all covered funds, whichever occurs
2 first, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans
3 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
4 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
5 report examining the obligations and expenditures made
6 using covered funds during the period covered by the re-
7 port. Each such report shall include—

8 (1) a comparison of how the funds are being
9 obligated and expended to how the funds were
10 planned to be obligated and expended in the plan
11 under subsection (a)(1);

12 (2) areas of waste, fraud, and abuse, if any;
13 and

14 (3) any other matter the Inspector General de-
15 termines relevant.

16 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

17 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than Sep-
18 tember 30, 2022, the Comptroller General of the
19 United States shall submit to the Committees on
20 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives
21 and the Senate an interim report containing a re-
22 view of obligations and expenditures made using cov-
23 ered funds. The report shall include—

1 (A) a review of the process of the Depart-
2 ment of Veterans Affairs for preparing the re-
3 quest for funds;

4 (B) an explanation of how the expenditure
5 of such funds met the goals of the Department
6 during the public health emergency for which
7 the funds were made available;

8 (C) any recommendations to improve the
9 process of identifying needs and expending
10 funds during similar situations in the future;
11 and

12 (D) a review of the plans of the Depart-
13 ment to continue programs or investments that
14 were begun with such funds but will continue
15 after such funds are expended.

16 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September
17 30, 2024, the Comptroller General shall submit to
18 the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
19 Representatives and the Senate a final report on the
20 matters specified under paragraph (1).

21 (d) COVERED FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the
22 term “covered funds” means funds that are made avail-
23 able to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to—

24 (1) the Families First Coronavirus Response
25 Act (Public Law 116–127);

1 (2) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
2 Security Act (Public Law 116-136); or
3 (3) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
4 (Public Law 117-2).