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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for 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. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF**
4 **CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC FUNDING MADE**
5 **AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
6 **AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) PLAN AND EXPENDITURES BY SECRETARY.—

1 (1) PLAN.—Not later than 30 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
4 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives
5 and the Senate a detailed plan for expending covered
6 funds, including a detailed justification for each ex-
7 penditure.

8 (2) REPORTS.—On a weekly basis during the
9 period beginning on the date on which the plan
10 under paragraph (1) is submitted and ending seven
11 days after the date on which the Secretary has ex-
12 pended all covered funds, the Secretary shall submit
13 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House
14 of Representatives and the Senate a report on the
15 expenditure of such funds during the period covered
16 by the report, including a written justification for
17 any deviation in such expenditures from such plan.

18 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—Not later than
19 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
20 quarterly thereafter until the Secretary has expended all
21 covered funds, the Inspector General of the Department
22 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
23 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
24 Senate a report containing audits of expenditures made

1 using covered funds during the period covered by the re-
2 port. Each such report shall include—

3 (1) a comparison of how the funds are being ex-
4 pended to how the funds were planned to be ex-
5 pended in the plan under subsection (a)(1); and

6 (2) areas of waste, fraud, and abuse, if any.

7 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later
8 than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary has
9 expended all covered funds, the Comptroller General of the
10 United States shall submit to the Committees on Vet-
11 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
12 Senate a report containing a review of such expenditures.
13 The report shall include—

14 (1) a review of the process of the Department
15 of Veterans Affairs for preparing the request for
16 funds;

17 (2) an explanation of whether the expenditure
18 of such funds met the needs of veterans and the De-
19 partment during the public health emergency for
20 which the funds were made available;

21 (3) any recommendations to improve the proc-
22 ess of identifying needs and expending funds during
23 similar situations in the future; and

24 (4) a review of the future funding needs of ini-
25 tiatives, programs, or investments, that were begun

1 with such funds but will continue after such funds
2 are expended.

3 (d) COVERED FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the
4 term “covered funds” means funds that—

5 (1) are made available to the Department of
6 Veterans Affairs pursuant to—

7 (A) the Families First Coronavirus Re-
8 sponse Act (Public Law 116–127);

9 (B) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Eco-
10 nomic Security Act (Public Law 116–136); or

11 (C) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
12 (Public Law 117–2); and

13 (2) are available to be expended as of the date
14 of the enactment of this Act.