

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H.R. 1276

AN ACT

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,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

- This Act may be cited as the "Department of Vet-
- 3 erans Affairs Veterans' and Caregivers' COVID-19 Im-
- 4 munizations Now Expanded Act of 2021" or the "VA
- 5 VACCINE Act of 2021".
- 6 SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- 7 TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINES TO CER-
- 8 TAIN INDIVIDUALS.
- 9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- 10 may furnish a COVID-19 vaccine to a covered individual
- 11 during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 12 (b) VACCINES FURNISHED ABROAD.—In the case of
- 13 an individual who is a covered individual by reason of sub-
- 14 section (d)(2)(B), the Secretary may furnish a COVID-
- 15 19 vaccine, in a geographic location other than a State,
- 16 to such individual under subsection (a) regardless of
- 17 whether the Secretary determines that such vaccine is
- 18 needed for the treatment of a service-connected disability
- 19 of the veteran or as part of a rehabilitation program under
- 20 chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.
- 21 (c) Veteran and Accompanying Caregiver Pri-
- 22 ORITY.—In furnishing COVID-19 vaccines, the Secretary
- 23 shall—
- 24 (1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who
- are enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the
- Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705

1	of title 38, United States Code, veterans who fail to
2	so enroll but receive hospital care and medical serv-
3	ices pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of such section,
4	and accompanying caregivers over the vaccination of
5	covered individuals under this section not otherwise
6	described in this paragraph; and
7	(2) only furnish such vaccines to covered indi-
8	viduals under this section to the extent that such
9	vaccines are available.
10	(d) Definitions.—In this section:
11	(1) The term "accompanying caregiver" means
12	a caregiver described in subparagraph (C), (D), or
13	(E) of paragraph (2) who is accompanying a veteran
14	as described in subsection $(c)(1)$.
15	(2) The term "covered individual" means any of
16	the following:
17	(A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll
18	in the patient enrollment system of the Depart-
19	ment of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of
20	title 38, United States Code.
21	(B) A veteran who is eligible for care
22	under section 1724 of such title.
23	(C) A family caregiver who is approved as
24	a provider of personal care services for an eligi-
25	ble veteran under the program of comprehensive

1	assistance for family caregivers under section
2	1720G(a) of such title.
3	(D) A caregiver of a covered veteran par-
4	ticipating in the program of general caregiver
5	support services under section 1720G(b) of
6	such title.
7	(E) A caregiver of a veteran participating
8	in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel
9	and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary
10	Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Pro-
11	gram of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
12	(3) The term "COVID-19" means the
13	Coronavirus disease 2019.
14	(4) The term "COVID-19 public health emer-
15	gency" means the public health emergency declared
16	by the Secretary of Health and Human Services or
17	January 27, 2020, with respect to the Coronavirus

disease 2019.

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- 1 (5) The term "State" has the meaning given
- 2 that term section 101 of title 38, United States
- Code.

Passed the House of Representatives March 9, 2021.

Attest:

Clerk.

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