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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CRIST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish 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.**

3 (a) COVID-19 VACCINES FOR VETERANS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of  
5 appropriations, during a covered emergency period,  
6 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may furnish the  
7 COVID-19 vaccine to any veteran who meets the re-  
8 quirements specified in paragraph (2) without re-  
9 gard to whether the veteran is enrolled in the annual  
10 patient enrollment system under section 1705 of  
11 title 38, United States Code.

12 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—A veteran meets the re-  
13 quirements of this paragraph if the veteran was dis-  
14 charged from service in the Armed Forces under  
15 honorable conditions and is—

16 (A) 65 years of age or older; or

17 (B) determined by the Secretary, in coordi-  
18 nation with the entities described in subsection  
19 (b)(2), to have a covered medical condition,  
20 without regard to whether the covered medical  
21 condition is a service-connected disability.

22 (b) COORDINATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,  
24 the Secretary shall coordinate with the entities de-  
25 scribed in paragraph (2), as appropriate, to deter-  
26 mine whether an individual seeking to receive a

1 COVID–19 vaccine pursuant this section meets the  
2 requirements of subsection (a)(2).

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

5 (A) The Secretary of Health and Human  
6 Services.

7 (B) The Director of the Centers for Dis-  
8 ease Control and Prevention.

9 (C) The Administrator of the Federal  
10 Emergency Management Agency.

11 (D) The heads of State departments of  
12 heath (or related agencies).

13 (E) Any other Federal agency determined  
14 relevant by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) The term “covered emergency period”  
17 means a period beginning on the date on which a  
18 President declares a national emergency under the  
19 National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)  
20 with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019  
21 (COVID–19) and ending on the date that is 30 days  
22 after the date on which such national emergency  
23 declaration terminates.

24 (2) The term “covered medical condition”  
25 means a medical condition determined by the Direc-

1           tor of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
2           tion to be high risk with respect to COVID–19.

3           (3) The term “COVID–19 vaccine” means any  
4           vaccine approved or authorized by the Food and  
5           Drug Administration for COVID–19.

6           (4) The term “State” includes each of the sev-  
7           eral States, the District of Columbia, each territory  
8           or possession of the United States, and each feder-  
9           ally recognized Indian Tribe.