

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5516

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the immunization of veterans, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2010

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

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the immunization of veterans, 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 “Access to Appropriate  
5 Immunizations for Veterans Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENSURING VETERAN ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE IM-**  
7 **MUNIZATIONS.**

8 (a) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDED ADULT VACCINA-  
9 TIONS AS MEDICAL SERVICES.—

1           (1) COVERED BENEFIT.—Subparagraph (F) of  
2 section 1701(9) of title 38, United States Code, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4           “(F) immunizations against infectious dis-  
5 eases, including each immunization on the rec-  
6 ommended adult immunization schedule at the  
7 time such immunization is indicated on that  
8 schedule;”.

9           (2) DEFINITION.—Section 1701 of title 38,  
10 United States Code, is amended by adding after  
11 paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

12           “(10) The term ‘recommended adult immuniza-  
13 tion schedule’ means the schedule established (and  
14 periodically reviewed and, as appropriate, revised) by  
15 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
16 established by the Secretary of Health and Human  
17 Services and delegated to the Centers for Disease  
18 Control and Prevention.”.

19           (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 1704(1)(A) of  
20 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

21           (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

22           (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the  
23 end and inserting “; and”; and

24           (3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following  
25 new clause:

1                   “(iii) to ensure that veterans have re-  
2                   ceived each immunization on the rec-  
3                   ommended adult immunization schedule at  
4                   the time such immunization is indicated on  
5                   that schedule.”.

6           (c) ASSURANCE THAT ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINA-  
7   TIONS CONSTITUTES APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT AND  
8   COST-EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERV-  
9   ICES.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1706(a) of title 38,  
11   United States Code, is amended—

12           (A) by striking “In managing the provi-  
13           sion” and inserting “(1) In managing the provi-  
14           sion”; and

15           (B) by adding at the end the following new  
16           subsection:

17           “(2) In managing the provision of medical services  
18   under such section, the Secretary shall develop and imple-  
19   ment quality measures and metrics to ensure that veterans  
20   receiving medical services under this title receive each im-  
21   munization on the recommended adult immunization  
22   schedule at the time such immunization is indicated on  
23   that schedule. Such quality measures and metrics shall in-  
24   clude targets for compliance. The Secretary shall, to the  
25   maximum extent feasible, develop and implement such

1 measures and metrics concurrently and consistently with  
2 the metrics in place, as of the date of the enactment of  
3 this paragraph, with respect to influenza and pneumo-  
4 coccal vaccinations.”

5 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 1704(1) of  
6 title 38, United States Code, as amended by sub-  
7 section (c)(1)(C), is further amended by adding after  
8 subparagraph (G) the following new subparagraph:

9 “(H) Statistics related to the quality meas-  
10 ures and metrics established under section  
11 1706(a)(2) of this title.”.

12 (3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

13 (A) DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL SCHED-  
14 ULE.—The Secretary shall establish the quality  
15 measures and metrics described in paragraph  
16 (2) of subsection (a) of section 1706 of title 38,  
17 United States Code, as added by paragraph (1),  
18 through notice and comment rulemaking in the  
19 Federal Register. The Secretary shall cause to  
20 have published in the Federal Register proposed  
21 measures and metrics by no later than July 1,  
22 2010, and shall finalize such measures and  
23 metrics by no later than December 31, 2010.

24 (B) IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES AND  
25 METRICS.—The Secretary shall implement para-

1 graph (2) of subsection (a) of section 1706 of  
2 title 38, United States Code, as added by para-  
3 graph (1) on January 1, 2011.

4 (C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Subpara-  
5 graph (H) of paragraph (1) of section 1704 of  
6 title 38, United States Code, as added by para-  
7 graph (2), shall apply with respect to the first  
8 report submitted under such section after Janu-  
9 ary 1, 2011.

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