

In the Senate of the United States,

March 17 (legislative day, March 16), 2021.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1276) entitled “An Act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening and Am-*
3 *plifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Vet-*
4 *erans and Every Spouse Act” or the “SAVE LIVES Act”.*

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
2 **TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINE TO CERTAIN**
3 **INDIVIDUALS NOT ENROLLED IN PATIENT EN-**
4 **ROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
7 *may furnish a vaccine for COVID-19 to a covered indi-*
8 *vidual during the COVID-19 public health emergency.*

9 (b) *PRIORITIZATION.*—*In furnishing vaccines for*
10 *COVID-19 under the laws administered by the Secretary,*
11 *the Secretary shall—*

12 (1) *prioritize the vaccination of veterans who are*
13 *enrolled in the patient enrollment system, veterans*
14 *who receive hospital care and medical services pursu-*
15 *ant to subsection (c)(2) of section 1705 of title 38,*
16 *United States Code, and accompanying caregivers of*
17 *such veterans before the vaccination of covered indi-*
18 *viduals not otherwise described in this paragraph;*
19 *and*

20 (2) *only furnish vaccines for COVID-19 to cov-*
21 *ered individuals under this section to the extent that*
22 *such vaccines are available.*

23 (c) *TIMING OF VACCINES PROVIDED TO SPOUSES OF*
24 *VETERANS.*—*The Secretary may determine the timing for*
25 *offering a vaccine for COVID-19 to the spouse of a veteran*
26 *from the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

1 (d) *VACCINE ALLOCATION.*—*It is the sense of Congress*
2 *that, to the extent practicable based on the current national*
3 *supply chain, the Secretary of Health and Human Services*
4 *should adjust the allocation for the Department of Veterans*
5 *Affairs for the vaccine for COVID–19 based on the addi-*
6 *tional eligibility of covered individuals under this section.*

7 (e) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

8 (1) *ACCOMPANYING CAREGIVER.*—*The term “ac-*
9 *companying caregiver” means a caregiver described*
10 *in subparagraph (D), (E), or (F) of paragraph (2)*
11 *who is accompanying a veteran who is receiving a*
12 *vaccine for COVID–19 furnished by the Department.*

13 (2) *COVERED INDIVIDUAL.*—*The term “covered*
14 *individual” means any of the following individuals:*

15 (A) *A veteran who is not eligible to enroll*
16 *in the patient enrollment system.*

17 (B) *A veteran who is eligible for care under*
18 *section 1724 of title 38, United States Code.*

19 (C) *A beneficiary under section 1781 of*
20 *such title.*

21 (D) *A family caregiver of a veteran partici-*
22 *pating in the program of comprehensive assist-*
23 *ance for family caregivers under section*
24 *1720G(a) of such title.*

1 (E) *A caregiver of a veteran participating*
2 *in the program of general caregiver support serv-*
3 *ices under section 1720G(b) of such title.*

4 (F) *A caregiver of a veteran participating*
5 *in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel*
6 *and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary*
7 *Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Pro-*
8 *gram of the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

9 (G) *A spouse of a veteran.*

10 (3) *COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—*
11 *The term “covered public health emergency” means*
12 *an emergency with respect to COVID–19 declared by*
13 *a Federal, State, or local authority.*

14 (4) *COVID–19.—The term “COVID–19” means*
15 *the coronavirus disease 2019.*

16 (5) *PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM.—The term*
17 *“patient enrollment system” means the system of an-*
18 *nual patient enrollment of the Department of Vet-*
19 *erans Affairs established and operated under section*
20 *1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.*

1 (6) *VETERAN.*—*The term “veteran” has the*
2 *meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38,*
3 *United States Code.*

Attest:

Secretary.

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H.R. 1276

AMENDMENT