

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2911

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “VA Transparency &
3 Trust Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF CORONAVIRUS**
5 **PANDEMIC FUNDING MADE AVAILABLE TO**
6 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) PLAN AND REPORTS BY SECRETARY.—

8 (1) PLAN.—Not later than 30 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
10 Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
11 Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives
12 and the Senate a detailed plan for obligating and ex-
13 pending covered funds, including a detailed justifica-
14 tion for each type of obligation of such funds.

15 (2) BIWEEKLY REPORTS.—Every 14 days dur-
16 ing the period beginning on the date on which the
17 plan under paragraph (1) is submitted and ending
18 seven days after the date on which the Secretary has
19 expended all covered funds, the Secretary shall sub-
20 mit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the
21 House of Representatives and the Senate a report
22 detailing the obligation and expenditure of, and the
23 planned uses for, such funds during the period cov-
24 ered by the report, including a written justification
25 for any deviation in such obligations, expenditures,
26 or planned uses from such plan.

1 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—Not later than
2 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
3 semiannually thereafter for three years or until the Sec-
4 retary has expended all covered funds, whichever occurs
5 first, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans
6 Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
7 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
8 report examining the obligations and expenditures made
9 using covered funds during the period covered by the re-
10 port. Each such report shall include—

11 (1) a comparison of how the funds are being
12 obligated and expended to how the funds were
13 planned to be obligated and expended in the plan
14 under subsection (a)(1);

15 (2) areas of waste, fraud, and abuse, if any;
16 and

17 (3) any other matter the Inspector General de-
18 termines relevant.

19 (c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

20 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than Sep-
21 tember 30, 2022, the Comptroller General of the
22 United States shall submit to the Committees on
23 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives
24 and the Senate an interim report containing a re-

1 view of obligations and expenditures made using cov-
2 ered funds. The report shall include—

3 (A) a review of the process of the Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs for preparing the re-
5 quest for funds;

6 (B) an explanation of how the expenditure
7 of such funds met the goals of the Department
8 during the public health emergency for which
9 the funds were made available;

10 (C) any recommendations to improve the
11 process of identifying needs and expending
12 funds during similar situations in the future;
13 and

14 (D) a review of the plans of the Depart-
15 ment to continue programs or investments that
16 were begun with such funds but will continue
17 after such funds are expended.

18 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September
19 30, 2024, the Comptroller General shall submit to
20 the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
21 Representatives and the Senate a final report on the
22 matters specified under paragraph (1).

23 (d) COVERED FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the
24 term “covered funds” means funds that are made avail-
25 able to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to—

Attest: **CHERYL L. JOHNSON,**
Clerk.