

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7091

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an investigational research and extended access treatment program utilizing innovative treatments and emerging therapies to address conditions with unmet medical needs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN (for himself and Mr. CORREA) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an investigational research and extended access treatment program utilizing innovative treatments and emerging therapies to address conditions with unmet medical needs, 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 “Expanding Veterans’  
5       Access to Emerging Treatments Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7       It is the sense of Congress that—

1           (1) Many conditions, such as chronic pain, post-  
2           traumatic stress disorder, and substance use dis-  
3           orders, continue to challenge the veteran community  
4           amid a lack of new innovative treatments and  
5           emerging therapies.

6           (2) These and other conditions represent an ur-  
7           gent unmet medical need among veterans.

8           (3) The Department of Veterans Affairs should  
9           continue to advance research and facilitate timely  
10          access to innovative treatments and emerging thera-  
11          pies, including psychedelic- and entactogenic-assisted  
12          therapies, for veterans with such unmet treatment  
13          needs.

14 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
15 **VETERANS AFFAIRS ON INNOVATIVE TREAT-**  
16 **MENTS AND EMERGING THERAPIES FOR CER-**  
17 **TAIN COVERED CONDITIONS.**

18          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
20 erans Affairs shall develop an investigational research pro-  
21 gram for the treatment of veterans diagnosed with a cov-  
22 ered condition using innovative treatments and emerging  
23 therapies, consistent with applicable Federal law, includ-  
24 ing laws governing investigational medical products and  
25 controlled substances. Not later than 60 days after the

1 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall des-  
2 ignate a lead administrator to carry out the research and  
3 treatment program under this section.

4 (b) INVESTIGATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.—The  
5 Department of Veterans Affairs may—

6 (1) conduct one or more clinical trials for the  
7 treatment of a covered condition that include vet-  
8 erans as participants in the clinical trial using inno-  
9 vative treatments and emerging therapies, which  
10 may be selected following a review of their efficacy,  
11 safety, and ease of administration; and

12 (2) develop a compassionate or extended access  
13 protocol that facilitates consideration of, and as ap-  
14 propriate access to, innovative treatments and  
15 emerging therapies.

16 (c) PARTICIPATION IN CLINICAL TRIALS OR EX-  
17 TENDED ACCESS.—The Secretary shall establish a process  
18 under which a veteran diagnosed with a covered condition  
19 may—

20 (1) participate in a clinical trial conducted  
21 under this section; or

22 (2) be considered for access to an innovative  
23 treatment or emerging therapy under a compas-  
24 sionate or extended access protocol, as clinically ap-  
25 propriate.

1 (d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—In addition to car-  
2 rying out the activities under this section, the Secretary  
3 may, using amounts otherwise authorized to be appro-  
4 priated and otherwise available to the Department of Vet-  
5 erans Affairs, support one or more clinical research trials  
6 using innovative treatments and emerging therapies de-  
7 scribed in subsection (g).

8 (e) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year  
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
10 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of  
11 the House of Representatives and the Senate a report, in-  
12 cluding the following:

13 (1) Identification of clinics designated to host  
14 activities under such a protocol under this section  
15 and the number of veterans expected to participate  
16 in a clinical trial conducted in subsection (b);

17 (2) Information on the findings and outcomes  
18 of such clinical trials, including preliminary out-  
19 comes; and

20 (3) A review of all innovative treatments and  
21 emerging therapies utilized for the treatment of cov-  
22 ered conditions, including safety and efficacy stud-  
23 ies, cost, regulatory, and logistical considerations as-  
24 sociated with each.

1 (f) SUNSET.—Not later than two years after the date  
2 of enactment of this Act, the investigational program shall  
3 be reviewed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who may  
4 then choose to extend or terminate the program at their  
5 discretion.

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “innovative treatment” means  
8 any of the following:

9 (A) 3,4-Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine;

10 (B) 5-Methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine;

11 (C) 5-Methoxy-2-aminoindane;

12 (D) Ibogaine;

13 (E) Ketamine;

14 (F) Psilocybin; and

15 (G) Such other treatments as may be des-  
16 ignated by the Secretary.

17 (2) The term “emerging therapies” means any  
18 of the following:

19 (A) Investigational pharmaceutical can-  
20 didates that meet the Government’s Definition  
21 of Recovery;

22 (B) Investigational medical devices, such  
23 as deep brain neurostimulation or hyperbaric  
24 oxygen therapy; and

1 (C) Such other therapeutic interventions as  
2 may be designated by the Secretary.

3 (3) The term “covered condition” means any of  
4 the following:

5 (A) Anxiety;

6 (B) Chronic pain;

7 (C) Depression;

8 (D) Post-traumatic stress disorder;

9 (E) Substance use disorders, including but  
10 not limited to alcohol use and cocaine use dis-  
11 orders;

12 (F) Traumatic brain injury; and

13 (G) Such other conditions as may be des-  
14 ignated by the Secretary.

15 (h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
16 tion shall be construed to require or direct the Secretary  
17 to act in a manner inconsistent with applicable Federal  
18 law, including laws governing investigational medical prod-  
19 ucts and controlled substances.

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