

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1446

To require 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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2021

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF**
4 **CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC FUNDING MADE**
5 **AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
6 **AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) PLAN AND EXPENDITURES BY SECRETARY.—

1 (1) PLAN.—Not later than 30 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on
4 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
5 on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives
6 a detailed plan for obligating and expending covered
7 funds, including a detailed justification for each type
8 of obligation of such funds.

9 (2) BIWEEKLY REPORTS.—Not less frequently
10 than once every 14 days during the period beginning
11 on the date on which the plan under paragraph (1)
12 is submitted and ending seven days after the date on
13 which the Secretary has expended all covered funds,
14 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
15 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
16 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
17 report detailing the obligation and expenditure of,
18 and the planned use for, such funds during the pe-
19 riod covered by the report, including a written jus-
20 tification for any deviation in such obligations, ex-
21 penditures, or planned uses from such plan.

22 (b) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
25 semiannually thereafter for three years or until the

Secretary has expended all covered funds, whichever occurs first, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report examining the obligations and expenditures made using covered funds during the period covered by the report.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A comparison of how the funds are being obligated and expended to how the funds were planned to be obligated and expended in the plan under subsection (a)(1).

(B) Areas of waste, fraud, and abuse, if any.

(C) Such other matters as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2022, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a

1 report containing a review of obligations and expend-
2 itures made using covered funds.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
4 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

5 (A) A review of the process of the Depart-
6 ment of Veterans Affairs for preparing the re-
7 quest for funds.

8 (B) An explanation of how the expenditure
9 of such funds met the goals of the Department
10 during the public health emergency for which
11 the funds were made available.

12 (C) Any recommendations to improve the
13 process of identifying needs and expending
14 funds during similar situations in the future.

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

19 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September
20 30, 2024, the Comptroller General shall submit to
21 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate
22 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
23 House of Representatives a final report on the mat-
24 ters specified under paragraph (2).

1 (d) COVERED FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the
2 term “covered funds” means funds that are made avail-
3 able to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to—
4 (1) the Families First Coronavirus Response
5 Act (Public Law 116–127);
6 (2) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
7 Security Act (Public Law 116–136); or
8 (3) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
9 (Public Law 117–2).

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