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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of State to submit a plan to eliminate the backlog of passport applications due to the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CONNOLLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to submit a plan to eliminate the backlog of passport applications due to the COVID–19 pandemic, 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 “Passport Backlog
5 Elimination Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLAN TO ELIMINATE PASSPORT APPLICATION**
2 **BACKLOG.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act or October 30, 2021,
5 whichever is later, after consultation with the appropriate
6 congressional committees, the Secretary of State shall sub-
7 mit to such committees a plan, including the actionable
8 strategies described in subsection (b), to ensure the cur-
9 rent backlog of passport applications due to the COVID-
10 19 pandemic is eliminated in a timely manner in order
11 to promote the national security and economic interests
12 of the United States.

13 (b) ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES.—The actionable
14 strategies described in this subsection are to—

15 (1) eliminate the backlog of at least 1.4 million
16 passport applications;

17 (2) establish a timeline for the elimination of
18 such backlog; and

19 (3) ensure—

20 (A) that the expected processing time
21 for—

22 (i) routine passport applications is be-
23 tween six and eight weeks;

24 (ii) expedited passport applications is
25 between two to three weeks; and

1 (iii) expedited passport applications
2 for Federal Government personnel is not
3 more than eight business days;

4 (B) the safety of Department of State per-
5 sonnel and customers and compliance with all
6 applicable Federal, State, and local health and
7 social distancing guidelines; and

8 (C) the ability for expedited service for ap-
9 plicants requiring a passport for purposes re-
10 lated to their employment.

11 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 30 days after
12 the submission of the plan required under subsection (a),
13 the Secretary of State shall begin implementation of the
14 plan to eliminate the backlog of passport applications due
15 to the COVID–19 pandemic.

16 (d) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—Not later than
17 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 Inspector General of the Department of State shall submit
19 to Congress an audit on the elimination of the passport
20 application backlog required by the plan required under
21 subsection (a), and the Department’s actionable strategies
22 described in subsection (b).

23 (e) APPLICATION.—If by September 30, 2021, all
24 passport applications received prior to June 15, 2021,
25 have been processed and the Department of State has re-

1 sumed accepting passport applications for routine and ex-
2 pedited processing, the provisions of this section shall not
3 apply.

4 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
5 priate congressional committees” means the Committee on
6 Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Re-
7 form of the House of Representatives and the Committee
8 on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Homeland Se-
9 curity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.