

116TH CONGRESS

1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use the authority of the Secretary to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal hemp grown in accordance with the 2018 Farm Bill, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____, 2019

Mr./Ms. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use the authority of the Secretary to conduct and support research on the efficacy and safety of medicinal hemp grown in accordance with the 2018 Farm Bill, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “VA Medicinal Hemp Research Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. CONDUCT OF RESEARCH INTO EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP ON THE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF CERTAIN VETERANS.

- (a) **RESEARCH REQUIRED.**—In carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 7303 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary may conduct and support research relating to the efficacy and safety of forms of industrial hemp grown in accordance with the 2018 Farm Bill described in subsection c on the health outcomes of covered veterans diagnose with chronic pain, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions the Secretary determines appropriate.
- (b) **DATA PRESERVATION.**—Research conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include a mechanism to ensure the preservation of all data, including all data sets, collected or used for purposes of the research required by subsection (a) in a manner that will facilitate further research.
- (c) **FORMS OF HEMP GROWN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2018 FARM BILL TO BE RESEARCHED.**—The forms of hemp grown in accordance with the 2018 Farm Bill described in this subsection are (1) varying forms of hemp grown in accordance with the 2018 Farm Bill, including (A) full plants and extracts; (B) at least three different strains of industrial hemp with significant variants in phenotypic traits and various ratios of cannabidiol in chemical composition; and (C) other chemical analogs of tetrahydro-cannabinol of less than .3% as defined by the 2018 Farm Bill; and (2) varying methods of hemp grown in accordance with the 2018 Farm Bill delivery, including topical application, combustible and non-combustible inhalation, and ingestion.
- (d) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall (1)

develop a plan to implement this section and submit such plan to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and (2) issue any requests for proposals the Secretary determines appropriate for such implementation.

- (e) **REPORTS.**—During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit periodically, but not less frequently than annually, to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate reports on the implementation of this section.
- (f) **COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered veteran” means a veteran who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.