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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of State to submit a plan to eliminate the passport application backlog, and for other purposes.

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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 passport application backlog, 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, after consultation with  
5 the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of  
6 State shall submit to such committees a plan, including  
7 the actionable strategies described in subsection (b), to en-  
8 sure the current backlog of passport applications due to  
9 the COVID-19 pandemic is eliminated in a timely manner  
10 in order to promote the national security and economic  
11 interests of the United States.

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

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

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

18 (3) ensure—

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

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

23 (ii) expedited passport applications is  
24 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 under subsection (a), the Sec-  
13 retary of State shall begin implementation of the plan to  
14 eliminate the backlog of passport applications due to the  
15 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) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-  
24 priate congressional committees” means the Committee on  
25 Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Re-

1 form of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
2 on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Homeland Se-  
3 curity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.