

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4514

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, and updating patient care facilities at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Kansas (for himself and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, and updating patient care facilities at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, 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 “Veterans’ Major Med-
5 ical Facilities Construction Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
2 **PROJECTS.**

3 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the
4 following major medical facility projects, with each project
5 to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount
6 specified for that project:

7 (1) Seismic corrections at the Department of
8 Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Palo Alto, Cali-
9 fornia, as follows:

10 (A) Building Number 2, \$14,020,000.

11 (B) Building Number 4, \$21,750,000.

12 (2) Seismic correction at the Department of
13 Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco,
14 California, \$31,000,000.

15 (3) Seismic correction at the Department of
16 Veterans Affairs Medical Center, West Los Angeles,
17 California, \$27,200,000.

18 (4) Seismic correction and clinical improvement
19 at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Cen-
20 ter, Long Beach, California, \$24,600,000.

21 (5) Seismic correction for Building Number 1
22 at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Cen-
23 ter, San Diego, California, \$47,100,000.

24 (6) Ambulatory Surgery and Clinical Consolida-
25 tion at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical
26 Center, Cleveland, Ohio, \$32,500,000.

1 (7) Consolidation of Department of Veterans
2 Affairs and Department of Defense health and bene-
3 fits offices, Anchorage Alaska, \$59,000,000.

4 (8) Ward Renovation at the Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Medical Center, West Haven, Con-
6 necticut, \$15,300,000.

7 (9) Ambulatory Care Expansion at the Depart-
8 ment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Tampa,
9 Florida, \$18,230,000.

10 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
12 priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year
13 2003 for the Construction, Major Projects, account
14 \$285,000,000 for the projects authorized in section 2.

15 (b) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in section
16 2 may only be carried out using—

17 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2003 pur-
18 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-
19 section (a);

20 (2) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
21 Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2003
22 that remain available for obligation; and

23 (3) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
24 Projects, for fiscal year 2003 for a category of activ-
25 ity not specific to a project.

1 **SEC. 4. INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL**
2 **FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

3 (a) INCREASE IN THRESHOLD.—Section
4 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
5 by striking “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$6,000,000”.

6 (b) APPLICABILITY TO PROJECTS ALREADY FUND-
7 ED.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply
8 with respect to any facility project of the Department of
9 Veterans Affairs, regardless of when funds are first appro-
10 priated for that project, except that in the case of a project
11 for which funds were first appropriated before October 1,
12 2000, such amendments shall not apply with respect to
13 amounts appropriated for that project for a fiscal year be-
14 fore fiscal year 2003.

15 **SEC. 5. CRITERIA FOR MINOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

16 Section 8103 of title 38, United States Code, is
17 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
18 section:

19 “(e) PURPOSE OF MINOR CONSTRUCTION
20 PROJECTS.—In selecting medical facilities (including re-
21 search facilities) for projects under subsection (a) other
22 than major medical facility projects subject to section
23 8104 of this title, the Secretary shall select projects to
24 improve, replace, renovate, or update facilities to achieve
25 one or more of the following:

1 “(1) Seismic protection improvements related to
2 patient safety (or, in the case of a research facility,
3 patient or employee safety).

4 “(2) Fire safety improvements.

5 “(3) Improvements to utility systems and ancil-
6 lary patient care facilities (including such systems
7 and facilities that may be exclusively associated with
8 research facilities).

9 “(4) Improved accommodation for persons with
10 disabilities, including barrier-free access.

11 “(5) Improvements at patient care facilities to
12 specialized programs of the Department, including
13 the following:

14 “(A) Blind rehabilitation centers.

15 “(B) Inpatient and residential programs
16 for seriously mentally ill veterans, including
17 mental illness research, education, and clinical
18 centers.

19 “(C) Residential and rehabilitation pro-
20 grams for veterans with substance-use dis-
21 orders.

22 “(D) Physical medicine and rehabilitation
23 activities.

24 “(E) Long-term care, including geriatric
25 research, education, and clinical centers, adult

1 day care centers, and nursing home care facili-
2 ties.

3 “(F) Amputation care, including facilities
4 for prosthetics, orthotics programs, and sensory
5 aids.

6 “(G) Spinal cord injury centers.

7 “(H) Traumatic brain injury programs.

8 “(I) Women veterans’ health programs (in-
9 cluding particularly programs involving privacy
10 and accommodation for female patients).

11 “(J) Facilities for hospice and palliative
12 care programs.”.

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