

Union Calendar No. 284

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4514

[Report No. 107-473]

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

MAY 16, 2002

Additional sponsors: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SHOWS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida, and Mrs. DAVIS of California

MAY 16, 2002

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italie*]

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
7 **PROJECTS.**

8 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the
9 following major medical facility projects, with each project
10 to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount
11 specified for that project:

12 (1) Seismic corrections at the Department of
13 Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Palo Alto, Cali-
14 fornia, as follows:

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

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

17 (2) Seismic correction at the Department of
18 Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco,
19 California, \$31,000,000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF A MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
17 **LEASE.**

18 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into a*
19 *lease for a Satellite Outpatient Clinic, Charlotte, North*
20 *Carolina, in an amount not to exceed \$2,626,000.*

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 (a) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—There is authorized to be appro-
23 priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year
24 ~~2003~~ for the Construction, Major Projects, account
25 ~~\$285,000,000~~ for the projects authorized in section 2.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*There is authorized to be appro-*
3 *priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year*
4 *2003—*

5 (1) *for the Construction, Major Projects, account*
6 *\$285,000,000 for the projects authorized in section 2;*
7 *and*

8 (2) *for the Medical Care account, \$2,626,000 for*
9 *the lease authorized in section 3.*

10 (b) *LIMITATION.*—*The projects authorized in section*
11 *2 may only be carried out using—*

12 (1) *funds appropriated for fiscal year 2003 pur-*
13 *suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-*
14 *section (a);*

15 (2) *funds appropriated for Construction, Major*
16 *Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2003*
17 *that remain available for obligation; and*

18 (3) *funds appropriated for Construction, Major*
19 *Projects, for fiscal year 2003 for a category of activ-*
20 *ity not specific to a project.*

21 **SEC. 4. 5. INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL**
22 **FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

23 (a) **INCREASE IN THRESHOLD.**—Section
24 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended
25 by striking “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$6,000,000”.

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

10 (b) *APPLICABILITY TO PROJECTS ALREADY FUND-*
 11 *ED.*—*The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply*
 12 *with respect to any facility project of the Department of*
 13 *Veterans Affairs, except for a project for which the Secretary*
 14 *obligated funds before October 1, 2002.*

15 **SEC. 5. 6. CRITERIA FOR MINOR CONSTRUCTION**
 16 **PROJECTS.**

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

20 “(e) **PURPOSE OF MINOR CONSTRUCTION**
 21 **PROJECTS.**—In selecting medical facilities (including re-
 22 search facilities) for projects under subsection (a) other
 23 than major medical facility projects subject to section
 24 8104 of this title, the Secretary ~~shall~~ *shall, to the extent*

1 *practicable*, select projects to improve, replace, renovate,
2 or update facilities to achieve one or more of the following:

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

6 “(2) Fire safety improvements.

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

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

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

16 “(A) Blind rehabilitation centers.

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

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

24 “(D) Physical medicine and rehabilitation
25 activities.

1 “(E) Long-term care, including geriatric
2 research, education, and clinical centers, adult
3 day care centers, and nursing home care facili-
4 ties.

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

8 “(G) Spinal cord injury centers.

9 “(H) Traumatic brain injury programs.

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

13 “(J) Facilities for hospice and palliative
14 care programs.”.

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