

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2422

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2015

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations are being made for fiscal year 2016.

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 “Fiscal Year 2016 De-
5 partment of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Con-
6 struction Authorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FA-**
2 **CILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Military Construction, Veterans Af-
6 fairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,
7 2016, which was passed by the Senate on November
8 10, 2015, without a single vote cast against the bill,
9 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 in-
10 clude the following amounts to be appropriated to
11 the Department of Veterans Affairs:

12 (A) \$35,000,000 to make seismic correc-
13 tions to Building 208 at the West Los Angeles
14 Medical Center of the Department in Los Ange-
15 les, California, which, according to the Depart-
16 ment, is a building that is designated as having
17 an exceptionally high risk of sustaining sub-
18 stantial damage or collapsing during an earth-
19 quake.

20 (B) \$158,000,000 to provide for the con-
21 struction of a new research building, site work,
22 and demolition at the San Francisco Veterans
23 Affairs Medical Center.

24 (C) \$161,000,000 to replace Building 133
25 with a new community living center at the Long
26 Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which,

1 according to the Department, is a building that
2 is designated as having an extremely high risk
3 of sustaining major damage during an earth-
4 quake.

5 (D) \$468,800,000 for construction projects
6 that are critical to the Department for ensuring
7 health care access and safety at medical facili-
8 ties in Louisville, Kentucky, Jefferson Barracks
9 in St. Louis, Missouri, Perry Point, Maryland,
10 American Lake, Washington, Alameda, Cali-
11 fornia, and Livermore, California.

12 (2) The Department is unable to obligate or ex-
13 pend the amounts described in paragraph (1), other
14 than for construction design, because the Depart-
15 ment lacks an explicit authorization by an Act of
16 Congress pursuant to section 8104(a)(2) of title 38,
17 United States Code, to carry out the major medical
18 facility projects described in such paragraph.

19 (3) Among the major medical facility projects
20 described in paragraph (1), three are critical seismic
21 safety projects in California.

22 (4) Every day that the critical seismic safety
23 projects described in paragraph (3) are delayed in-
24 creases the risk of a life-threatening building failure
25 in the case of a major seismic event.

1 (5) According to the United States Geological
2 Survey—

3 (A) California has more than a 99 percent
4 chance of experiencing an earthquake of mag-
5 nitude 6.7 or greater in the next 30 years;

6 (B) even earthquakes of less severity than
7 magnitude 6.7 can cause life threatening dam-
8 age to seismically unsafe buildings; and

9 (C) in California, earthquakes of mag-
10 nitude 6.0 or greater occur on average once
11 every 1.2 years.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
13 fairs may carry out the following major medical facility
14 projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount
15 not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

16 (1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including
17 retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings,
18 in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to
19 exceed \$180,480,000.

20 (2) Seismic corrections to facilities, including
21 facilities to support homeless veterans, at the med-
22 ical center in West Los Angeles, California, in an
23 amount not to exceed \$105,500,000.

1 (3) Seismic corrections to the mental health
2 and community living center in Long Beach, Cali-
3 fornia, in an amount not to exceed \$287,100,000.

4 (4) Construction of an outpatient clinic, admin-
5 istrative space, cemetery, and columbarium in Ala-
6 meda, California, in an amount not to exceed
7 \$87,332,000.

8 (5) Realignment of medical facilities in Liver-
9 more, California, in an amount not to exceed
10 \$194,430,000.

11 (6) Construction of a medical center in Louis-
12 ville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed
13 \$150,000,000.

14 (7) Construction of a replacement community
15 living center in Perry Point, Maryland, in an
16 amount not to exceed \$92,700,000.

17 (8) Seismic corrections and other renovations to
18 several buildings and construction of a specialty care
19 building in American Lake, Washington, in an
20 amount not to exceed \$16,260,000.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CON-
22 STRUCTION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to
23 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 or
24 the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construc-

tion, Major Projects, account, \$1,113,802,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in subsection (b) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

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