

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2422

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2016

Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fiscal Year 2016 De-
3 partment of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Con-
4 struction Authorization Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FA-**
6 **CILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

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

9 (1) The Military Construction, Veterans Af-
10 fairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act,
11 2016, which was passed by the Senate on November
12 10, 2015, without a single vote cast against the bill,
13 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 in-
14 clude the following amounts to be appropriated to
15 the Department of Veterans Affairs:

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

24 (B) \$158,000,000 to provide for the con-
25 struction of a new research building, site work,

1 and demolition at the San Francisco Veterans
2 Affairs Medical Center.

3 (C) \$161,000,000 to replace Building 133
4 with a new community living center at the Long
5 Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which,
6 according to the Department, is a building that
7 is designated as having an extremely high risk
8 of sustaining major damage during an earth-
9 quake.

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

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

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

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

8 (5) According to the United States Geological
9 Survey—

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

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

16 (C) in California, earthquakes of mag-
17 nitude 6.0 or greater occur on average once
18 every 1.2 years.

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

23 (1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including
24 retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings,

1 in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to
2 exceed \$180,480,000.

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

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

10 (4) Construction of an outpatient clinic, admin-
11 istrative space, cemetery, and columbarium in Ala-
12 meda, California, in an amount not to exceed
13 \$87,332,000.

14 (5) Realignment of medical facilities in Liver-
15 more, California, in an amount not to exceed
16 \$194,430,000.

17 (6) Construction of a medical center in Louis-
18 ville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed
19 \$150,000,000.

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

23 (8) Seismic corrections and other renovations to
24 several buildings and construction of a specialty care

1 building in American Lake, Washington, in an
2 amount not to exceed \$16,260,000.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CON-
4 STRUCTION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to
5 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 or
6 the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construc-
7 tion, Major Projects, account, \$1,113,802,000 for the
8 projects authorized in subsection (b).

9 (d) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in sub-
10 section (b) may only be carried out using—

11 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pur-
12 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-
13 section (c);

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

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

20 (4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
21 Projects, for fiscal year 2016 for a category of activ-
22 ity not specific to a project;

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

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

Passed the Senate January 20, 2016.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,
Secretary.