

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9652

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a minor medical facility project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2026

Ms. KING-HINDS 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 a minor medical facility project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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 “Northern Marianas
5 VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Authorization
6 Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MINOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
2 **PROJECT FOR COMMUNITY-BASED OUT-**
3 **PATIENT CLINIC IN SAIPAN, COMMON-**
4 **WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA IS-**
5 **LANDS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
7 may carry out a minor medical facility project in fiscal
8 year 2027 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern
9 Mariana Islands, for the construction, lease, build-to-lease,
10 renovation, alteration, repair, or retrofit of a community-
11 based outpatient clinic in an amount not to exceed
12 \$3,696,000.

13 (b) USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES.—In carrying
14 out the project authorized under subsection (a), the Sec-
15 retary may use amounts authorized to be appropriated
16 under subsection (e) to conduct such construction activi-
17 ties as the Secretary determines appropriate for such
18 project.

19 (c) FLEXIBILITY IN BUILDING STANDARDS.—In car-
20 rying out the project authorized under subsection (a), the
21 Secretary may apply such alternative building, design,
22 space, resiliency, or construction standards as the Sec-
23 retary determines appropriate for the unique geographic,
24 logistical, and market conditions of the Commonwealth of
25 the Northern Mariana Islands, if the Secretary determines
26 such standards will ensure that the facility is safe, acces-

1 sible, functional, and suitable for the delivery of outpatient
2 care under laws administered by the Secretary to veterans.

3 (d) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
4 the feasibility of the project under subsection (a) or in de-
5 termining the type of facility at which to carry out the
6 project under such subsection (a), the Secretary shall con-
7 sider the elevated costs and logistical challenges associated
8 with construction, leasing, renovation, alteration, repair,
9 and retrofit activities in the Commonwealth of the North-
10 ern Mariana Islands, including—

11 (1) the lack of a permanent Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs clinical presence in the Commonwealth;

13 (2) the geographic distance of existing medical
14 facilities from the Commonwealth;

15 (3) the need to ship construction materials for
16 such project by ocean transport;

17 (4) the limited availability of—

18 (A) construction contractors and sub-
19 contractors; and

20 (B) contractor housing; and

21 (5) the need to reduce the burden of traveling
22 to medical facilities for veterans residing in the
23 Commonwealth.

24 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for fis-

1 cal year 2027, for the project authorized under subsection
2 (a), \$3,696,000, to be deposited in the Construction,
3 minor Projects account of the Department.

○