

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4514

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2002

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## AN ACT

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. 4. 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—

1 (1) for the Construction, Major Projects, ac-  
 2 count \$285,000,000 for the projects authorized in  
 3 section 2; and

4 (2) for the Medical Care account, \$2,626,000  
 5 for the lease authorized in section 3.

6 (b) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in section  
 7 2 may only be carried out using—

8 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2003 pur-  
 9 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-  
 10 section (a);

11 (2) funds appropriated for Construction, Major  
 12 Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2003  
 13 that remain available for obligation; and

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

17 **SEC. 5. INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL**  
 18 **FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

19 (a) INCREASE IN THRESHOLD.—Section  
 20 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
 21 by striking “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$6,000,000”.

22 (b) APPLICABILITY TO PROJECTS ALREADY FUND-  
 23 ED.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply  
 24 with respect to any facility project of the Department of

1 Veterans Affairs, except for a project for which the Sec-  
2 retary obligated funds before October 1, 2002.

3 **SEC. 6. CRITERIA FOR MINOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

4 Section 8103 of title 38, United States Code, is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
6 section:

7 “(e) PURPOSE OF MINOR CONSTRUCTION  
8 PROJECTS.—In selecting medical facilities (including re-  
9 search facilities) for projects under subsection (a) other  
10 than major medical facility projects subject to section  
11 8104 of this title, the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-  
12 ticable, select projects to improve, replace, renovate, or up-  
13 date facilities to achieve one or more of the following:

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

17 “(2) Fire safety improvements.

18 “(3) Improvements to utility systems and ancil-  
19 lary patient care facilities (including such systems  
20 and facilities that may be exclusively associated with  
21 research facilities).

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

1           “(5) Improvements at patient care facilities to  
2           specialized programs of the Department, including  
3           the following:

4                   “(A) Blind rehabilitation centers.

5                   “(B) Inpatient and residential programs  
6                   for seriously mentally ill veterans, including  
7                   mental illness research, education, and clinical  
8                   centers.

9                   “(C) Residential and rehabilitation pro-  
10                  grams for veterans with substance-use dis-  
11                  orders.

12                  “(D) Physical medicine and rehabilitation  
13                  activities.

14                  “(E) Long-term care, including geriatric  
15                  research, education, and clinical centers, adult  
16                  day care centers, and nursing home care facili-  
17                  ties.

18                  “(F) Amputation care, including facilities  
19                  for prosthetics, orthotics programs, and sensory  
20                  aids.

21                  “(G) Spinal cord injury centers.

22                  “(H) Traumatic brain injury programs.

23                  “(I) Women veterans’ health programs (in-  
24                  cluding particularly programs involving privacy  
25                  and accommodation for female patients).

1 “(J) Facilities for hospice and palliative  
2 care programs.”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2002.

Attest: **JEFF TRANDAHL,**  
*Clerk.*