

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2349

To authorize certain major medical facility projects for the Department of
Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2003

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FILNER, Ms.
BERKLEY, and Mrs. DAVIS of California) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize certain major medical facility projects for the
Department of Veterans Affairs.

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. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
4 **PROJECTS.**

5 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the
6 following major medical facility projects, with each project
7 to be carried out in the amount specified for that project:

8 (1) Construction of a new bed tower to consoli-
9 date two inpatient sites of care in inner city Chicago
10 at the West Side Division of the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs health care system in Chicago, Illinois,
in an amount not to exceed \$98,500,000.

(2) Construction in Clark County, Nevada, of a
facility for (A) a multispecialty outpatient clinic to
replace the leased Las Vegas ambulatory care cen-
ter, and (B) a satellite office for the Veterans Bene-
fits Administration, in an amount not to exceed
\$97,300,000.

(3) Seismic corrections to strengthen Medical
Center Building 1 of the Department of Veterans
Affairs health care system in San Diego, California,
in an amount not to exceed \$48,600,000.

(4) A project for (A) renovation of all inpatient
care wards at the West Haven, Connecticut, facility
of the Department of Veterans Affairs health system
in Connecticut to improve the environment of care
and enhance safety, privacy, and accessibility, and
(B) establishment of a consolidated medical research
facility at that facility, in an amount not to exceed
\$50,000,000.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year
2004 for the Construction, Major Projects, account
\$294,400,000 for the projects authorized in section 1.

1 (b) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in section
 2 1 may only be carried out using—

3 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2004 pur-
 4 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-
 5 section (a);

6 (2) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
 7 Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2004
 8 that remain available for obligation; and

9 (3) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
 10 Projects, for fiscal year 2004 for a category of activ-
 11 ity not specific to a project.

12 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
 13 **LEASE.**

14 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into a
 15 lease for an outpatient clinic in Charlotte, North Carolina,
 16 in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

17 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON DISPOSAL OF LAKESIDE DIVISION,**
 18 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MED-**
 19 **ICAL FACILITIES, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.**

20 (a) LIMITATION.—No funds available to the Sec-
 21 retary of Veterans Affairs may be used for disposal of the
 22 Lakeside Division facility of the Department of Veterans
 23 Affairs medical facilities in Chicago, Illinois, until the Sec-
 24 retary has entered into a contract to construct a new bed

1 tower at the West Side Medical Center of the Department
2 of Veterans Affairs in Chicago, Illinois.

3 (b) DEFINITION.— For purposes of this section, the
4 term “disposal”, with respect to the Lakeside Division fa-
5 cility, includes entering into a long-term lease or sharing
6 agreement under which a party other than the Secretary
7 has operational control of the facility.

○