

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3898

To authorize construction of a new (replacement) medical center for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico at a site to be selected pursuant to a study by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of Defense as suitable for a new Federal medical center in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that would best serve the needs of both veterans and Department of Defense medical beneficiaries in Puerto Rico.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ (for himself, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize construction of a new (replacement) medical center for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico at a site to be selected pursuant to a study by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of Defense as suitable for a new Federal medical center in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that would best serve the needs of both veterans and Department of Defense medical beneficiaries in Puerto Rico.

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. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**  
2 **PROJECT, COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO**  
3 **RICO.**

4 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a  
5 major medical facility project for the construction of a new  
6 (replacement) medical center in the Commonwealth of  
7 Puerto Rico, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000,000.  
8 The project shall be carried out at the site selected pursu-  
9 ant to section 3.

10 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
12 priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year  
13 2005 for the Construction, Major Projects, account  
14 \$450,000,000 for the project authorized in section 1.

15 (b) LIMITATION.—The project authorized in section  
16 1 may only be carried out using—

17 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2005 pur-  
18 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-  
19 section (a);

20 (2) funds appropriated for Construction, Major  
21 Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2005  
22 that remain available for obligation; and

23 (3) funds appropriated for Construction, Major  
24 Projects, for fiscal year 2005 for a category of activ-  
25 ity not specific to a project.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF SITE FOR NEW MEDICAL CENTER IN**  
2 **COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.**

3 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and  
4 the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a joint study of  
5 the locations in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico speci-  
6 fied in subsection (b) to determine which of those two loca-  
7 tions would be the preferable site for a new Federal med-  
8 ical center in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to serve  
9 the needs of both veterans and Department of Defense  
10 medical beneficiaries in Puerto Rico.

11 (b) SPECIFICATION OF SITES.—The sites to be stud-  
12 ied under subsection (a) are the following:

13 (1) Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico.

14 (2) Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

15 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The two Secretaries  
16 shall jointly submit to Congress a report setting forth the  
17 results of the study, including the recommendation of the  
18 Secretaries for the site for a new Federal medical center  
19 in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The report shall be  
20 submitted not later than six months after the date of the  
21 enactment of this Act.

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