

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 285

To authorize the construction of a replacement medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Aurora, Colorado, and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Chief of Engineers to act as the construction agent with respect to such construction, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2015

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the construction of a replacement medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Aurora, Colorado, and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Chief of Engineers to act as the construction agent with respect to such construction, 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 “Aurora Veterans Af-
5 fairs Hospital Financing and Construction Reform Act of
6 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
2 **PROJECT TO REPLACE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN AU-**
4 **RORA, COLORADO.**

5 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a
6 major medical facility project to replace the medical center
7 of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Aurora, Colo-
8 rado, in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000,000.

9 **SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION AGENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DE-**
10 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL**
11 **CENTER IN AURORA, COLORADO.**

12 (a) **AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AGENT AU-**
13 **THORITY.—**

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Not later than 30 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
16 of Veterans Affairs shall enter into an agreement
17 with the Chief of Engineers to procure the services
18 of the Chief of Engineers as the construction agent
19 with respect to carrying out the Aurora medical fa-
20 cility project until the date on which the project is
21 completed.

22 (2) **REIMBURSEMENT.—**The Secretary shall re-
23 imburse the Chief of Engineers for services procured
24 under paragraph (1) in accordance with section
25 1535 of title 31, United States Code (commonly re-
26 ferred to as the “Economy Act”), except that

1 amounts required to carry out the Aurora medical
2 facility project shall be obligated by the Secretary at
3 the time a reimbursable order is accepted by the
4 Chief of Engineers.

5 (b) DUTIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the agreement
7 entered into under subsection (a), the Chief of Engi-
8 neers shall, as the construction agent with respect to
9 the Aurora medical facility project, be given the au-
10 thority to perform the project, design, contract, and
11 construction management necessary to complete
12 such project.

13 (2) NEW CONTRACTS.—The authority under
14 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) The authority to enter into new con-
16 tracts in compliance with the Federal Acquisi-
17 tion Regulation.

18 (B) The authority to determine whether
19 entering into a new contract with the prime
20 contractor of the Aurora medical facility project
21 as of the day before the date of the enactment
22 of this Act is consistent with the Federal Acqui-
23 sition Regulation and in the best interests of
24 the Federal Government.

25 (c) PLANS AND REPORTS.—

1 (1) COMPLETION PLAN.—Not later than 90
2 days after entering into the agreement under sub-
3 section (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall,
4 in consultation with the Chief of Engineers, submit
5 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate
6 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
7 House of Representatives a detailed plan, including
8 estimated costs, to complete the construction of the
9 Aurora medical facility project.

10 (2) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 180
11 days after entering into the agreement under sub-
12 section (a), and not less frequently than once during
13 each 180-day period thereafter until the date on
14 which the Aurora medical facility project is com-
15 pleted, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the
16 Chief of Engineers, submit to the Committee on Vet-
17 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
18 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
19 report detailing the progress of the Aurora medical
20 facility project.

21 (d) COOPERATION.—

22 (1) INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall provide to the Chief of Engineers any
24 documents or information that the Chief of Engi-
25 neers considers necessary to carry out this section,

1 including information relating to the successful oper-
2 ation of a medical facility.

3 (2) ASSISTANCE.—Upon request by the Chief of
4 Engineers, the Secretary shall provide to the Chief
5 of Engineers, at no cost to the Chief of Engineers,
6 any assistance that the Chief of Engineers considers
7 necessary to carry out this section.

8 (e) AURORA MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT DE-
9 FINED.—In this section, the term “Aurora medical facility
10 project” means the major medical facility project planned
11 for under section 213(1) of the Veterans Health Care,
12 Capital Asset, and Business Improvement Act of 2003
13 (Public Law 108–170; 117 Stat. 2049) and authorized by
14 section 2 to replace the medical center of the Department
15 of Veterans Affairs in Aurora, Colorado.

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