

Calendar No. 199

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 833

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations were made for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2015

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AUGUST 6, 2015

Reported, under authority of the order of the Senate of August 5, 2015, by
Mr. ISAKSON, with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations were made for fiscal year 2015, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Vet-
3 erans Affairs Medical Facility Earthquake Protection and
4 Improvement Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FA-**
6 **CILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR WHICH AMOUNTS**
8 **HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

10 (1) The Consolidated and Further Continuing
11 Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235) ap-
12 propriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs—

13 (A) \$35,000,000 to make seismic correc-
14 tions to Building 205 in the West Los Angeles
15 Medical Center of the Department in Los Ange-
16 les, California, which, according to the Depart-
17 ment, is a building that is designated as having
18 an exceptionally high risk of sustaining sub-
19 stantial damage or collapsing during an earth-
20 quake;

21 (B) \$101,900,000 to replace the commu-
22 nity living center and mental health facilities of
23 the Department in Long Beach, California,
24 which, according to the Department, are des-
25 ignated as having an exceptionally high risk of

1 sustaining substantial damage or collapsing
2 during an earthquake;

3 (C) \$187,500,000 to replace the existing
4 spinal cord injury clinic of the Department in
5 San Diego, California, which, according to the
6 Department, is designated as having an ex-
7 tremely high risk of sustaining major damage
8 during an earthquake; and

9 (D) \$122,400,000 to make renovations to
10 address substantial safety and compliance
11 issues at the medical center of the Department
12 in Canandaigua, New York, and for the con-
13 struction of a new clinic and community living
14 center at such medical center.

15 (2) The Department is unable to obligate or ex-
16 pend the amounts described in paragraph (1) be-
17 cause it lacks an explicit authorization by an Act of
18 Congress pursuant to section 8104(a)(2) of title 38,
19 United States Code, to carry out the major medical
20 facility projects described in such paragraph.

21 (3) Among the major medical facility projects
22 described in paragraph (1), three are critical seismic
23 safety projects in California.

24 (4) Every day that the critical seismic safety
25 projects described in paragraph (3) are delayed puts

1 the lives of veterans and employees of the Depart-
 2 ment at risk.

3 (5) According to the United States Geological
 4 Survey—

5 (A) California has a 99-percent chance or
 6 greater of experiencing an earthquake of mag-
 7 nitude 6.7 or greater in the next 30 years;

8 (B) even earthquakes of less severity than
 9 magnitude 6.7 can cause life threatening dam-
 10 age to seismically unsafe buildings; and

11 (C) in California, earthquakes of mag-
 12 nitude 6.0 or greater occur on average once
 13 every 1.2 years.

14 ~~(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-~~
 15 ~~fairs may carry out the major medical facility projects of~~
 16 ~~the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in the ex-~~
 17 ~~planatory statement accompanying the Consolidated and~~
 18 ~~Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public~~
 19 ~~Law 113–235) at the locations and in the amounts speci-~~
 20 ~~fied in such explanatory statement, including by obligating~~
 21 ~~and expending such amounts.~~

22 *(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-*
 23 *fairs may carry out the following major medical facility*
 24 *projects at the locations specified and in an amount for each*
 25 *project not to exceed the amount specified for that project:*

1 (1) *For the construction of a community living*
2 *center, outpatient clinic, and renovated domiciliary*
3 *facility, and the renovation of existing buildings in*
4 *Canandaigua, New York, an amount not to exceed*
5 *\$158,980,000.*

6 (2) *For seismic corrections to the mental health*
7 *and community living center in Long Beach, Cali-*
8 *fornia, an amount not to exceed \$126,100,000.*

9 (3) *For seismic corrections to 12 buildings in*
10 *West Los Angeles, California, an amount not to ex-*
11 *ceed \$70,500,000.*

12 (4) *For construction of a spinal cord injury*
13 *building and seismic corrections in San Diego, Cali-*
14 *fornia, an amount not to exceed \$205,840,000.*

15 (c) *REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date*
16 *of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-*
17 *fairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of*
18 *the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the*
19 *House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the De-*
20 *partment of Veterans Affairs, including efforts relating to*
21 *building standards and disaster preparedness plans, to pro-*
22 *tect facilities of the Department that are located in areas*
23 *that are at a high-risk for tsunamis and volcanic activity,*
24 *including areas in Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and American*
25 *Samoa.*

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