

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3376

To authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 1996

Mr. STUMP (for himself, Mr. MONTGOMERY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1997, 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 **TITLE I—CONSTRUCTION**
4 **AUTHORIZATION**

5 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
6 **PROJECTS.**

7 (a) **AMBULATORY CARE ADDITION PROJECTS.**—The
8 Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following
9 ambulatory care addition major medical facility projects,

1 with each project to be carried out in the amount specified
2 for that project:

3 (1) Addition of ambulatory care facilities for
4 mental health enhancements at the Department of
5 Veterans Affairs medical center in Dallas, Texas,
6 \$19,900,000.

7 (2) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the
8 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in
9 Brockton, Massachusetts, \$13,500,000.

10 (3) Addition of ambulatory care facilities for
11 outpatient improvements at the Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs medical center in Shreveport, Louisi-
13 ana, \$25,000,000.

14 (4) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the
15 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in
16 Lyons, New Jersey, \$21,100,000.

17 (5) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the
18 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in
19 Tomah, Wisconsin, \$12,700,000.

20 (6) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the
21 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in
22 Asheville, North Carolina, in the amount of
23 \$28,800,000.

1 (7) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the
2 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in
3 Temple, Texas, in the amount of \$9,800,000.

4 (8) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in
6 Tucson, Arizona, in the amount of \$35,500,000.

7 (b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.—
8 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the fol-
9 lowing environmental improvement major medical facility
10 projects, with each project to be carried out in the amount
11 specified for that project:

12 (1) Environmental improvements for the ren-
13 ovation of nursing home facilities at the Department
14 of Veterans Affairs medical center in Lebanon,
15 Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$9,500,000.

16 (2) Environmental improvements at the Depart-
17 ment of Veterans Affairs medical center in Marion,
18 Illinois, in the amount of \$11,500,000.

19 (3) Environmental improvements to modernize
20 patient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs
21 medical center in Atlanta, Georgia, \$28,200,000.

22 (4) Environmental improvements for the re-
23 placement of a psychiatric bed building at the De-
24 partment of Veterans Affairs medical center in Bat-
25 tle Creek, Michigan, \$22,900,000.

1 (5) Environmental improvements for ward ren-
2 ovation for patient privacy at the Department of
3 Veterans Affairs medical center in Omaha, Ne-
4 braska, \$7,700,000.

5 (6) Environmental improvements at the Depart-
6 ment of Veterans Affairs medical center in Pitts-
7 burgh, Pennsylvania, \$17,400,000.

8 (7) Environmental improvements for the ren-
9 ovation of various buildings at the Department of
10 Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas,
11 \$26,000,000.

12 (8) Environmental improvements for the re-
13 placement of psychiatric beds at the Department of
14 Veterans Affairs medical center in Marion, Indiana,
15 in the amount of \$17,300,000.

16 (9) Environmental improvements for the ren-
17 ovation of psychiatric wards at the Department of
18 Veterans Affairs medical center in Perry Point,
19 Maryland, in the amount of \$15,100,000.

20 (10) Environmental enhancement at the De-
21 partment of Veterans Affairs medical center in
22 Salisbury, North Carolina, in the amount of
23 \$18,200,000.

24 (c) SEISMIC CORRECTION PROJECTS.—The Secretary
25 of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following seismic

1 correction major medical facility projects, with each
2 project to be carried out in the amount specified for that
3 project:

4 (1) Seismic corrections at the Department of
5 Veterans Affairs medical center in Palo Alto, Cali-
6 fornia, in the amount of \$36,000,000.

7 (2) Seismic corrections at the Department of
8 Veterans Affairs medical center in Long Beach,
9 California, in the amount of \$20,200,000.

10 (3) Seismic corrections at the Department of
11 Veterans Affairs medical center in San Francisco,
12 California, \$26,000,000.

13 **SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
14 **LEASES.**

15 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into
16 leases for medical facilities as follows:

17 (1) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic in Al-
18 lentown, Pennsylvania, in an amount not to exceed
19 \$2,159,000.

20 (2) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic in
21 Beaumont, Texas, in an amount not to exceed
22 \$1,940,000.

23 (3) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic in Bos-
24 ton, Massachusetts, in an amount not to exceed
25 \$2,358,000.

1 (4) Lease of a parking facility in Cleveland,
2 Ohio, in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000.

3 (5) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic and
4 Veterans Benefits Administration field office in San
5 Antonio, Texas, in an amount not to exceed
6 \$2,256,000.

7 (6) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic in To-
8ledo, Ohio, in an amount not to exceed \$2,223,000.

9 **SEC. 103. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
11 priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year
12 1997—

13 (1) for the Construction, Major Projects, ac-
14 count, \$422,300,000 for the projects authorized in
15 section 101; and

16 (2) for the Medical Care account, \$12,236,000
17 for the leases authorized in section 102.

18 (b) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in section
19 101 may only be carried out using—

20 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 1997 pur-
21 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-
22 section (a);

23 (2) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
24 Projects for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1997 that
25 remain available for obligation; and

1 (3) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
2 Projects for fiscal year 1997 for a category of activ-
3 ity not specific to a project.

4 **SEC. 104. REPORT ON HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS**
5 **IN EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA.**

6 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
9 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-
10 tives a report on the health care needs of veterans in east
11 central Florida. In preparing the report, the Secretary
12 shall consider the needs of such veterans for psychiatric
13 and long-term care. The Secretary shall include in the re-
14 port the Secretary's views, based on the Secretary's deter-
15 mination of such needs, as to the best means of meeting
16 such needs using the amounts appropriated pursuant to
17 the authorization of appropriations in this Act and Public
18 Law 103-452 for projects to meet the health care needs
19 of such veterans. The Secretary may, subject to the avail-
20 ability of appropriations for such purpose, use an inde-
21 pendent contractor to assist in the determination of such
22 health care needs.

23 (b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not obligate
24 any funds, other than for design work, for the conversion
25 of the former Orlando Naval Training Center Hospital in

1 Orlando, Florida (now under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
2 retary of Veterans Affairs), to a nursing home care unit
3 until 15 days after the date on which the report required
4 by subsection (a) is submitted.

5 **TITLE II—STRATEGIC PLANNING** 6 **FOR HEALTH CARE RESOURCES**

7 **SEC. 201. STRATEGIC PLANNING.**

8 Section 8107 of title 38, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
11 section (c);

12 (2) by striking out subsection (a) and inserting
13 in lieu thereof the following new subsections:

14 “(a) In order to promote effective planning for the
15 efficient provision of care to eligible veterans, the Sec-
16 retary, based on the analysis and recommendations of the
17 Under Secretary for Health, shall submit to each commit-
18 tee, not later than January 31 of each year, a report re-
19 garding long-range health planning of the Department.

20 “(b) Each report under subsection (a) shall include
21 the following:

22 “(1) A five-year strategic plan for the provision
23 of care under chapter 17 of this title to eligible vet-
24 erans through coordinated networks of medical fa-
25 cilities operating within prescribed geographic serv-

1 ice-delivery areas, such plan to include provision of
2 services for the specialized treatment and rehabilita-
3 tive needs of disabled veterans (including veterans
4 with spinal cord dysfunction, blindness, amputations,
5 and mental illness) through distinct programs or fa-
6 cilities of the Department dedicated to the special-
7 ized needs of those veterans.

8 “(2) A description of how planning for the net-
9 works will be coordinated.

10 “(3) A profile regarding each such network of
11 medical facilities which identifies—

12 “(A) the mission of each existing or pro-
13 posed medical facility in the network;

14 “(B) any planned change in the mission
15 for any such facility and the rationale for such
16 planned change;

17 “(C) the population of veterans to be
18 served by the network and anticipated changes
19 over a five-year period and a ten-year period,
20 respectively, in that population and in the
21 health-care needs of that population;

22 “(D) information relevant to assessing
23 progress toward the goal of achieving relative
24 equivalency in the level of resources per patient
25 distributed to each network, such information

1 to include the plans for and progress toward
2 lowering the cost of care-delivery in the network
3 (by means such as changes in the mix in the
4 network of physicians, nurses, physician assist-
5 ants, and advance practice nurses);

6 “(E) the capacity of non-Federal facilities
7 in the network to provide acute, long-term, and
8 specialized treatment and rehabilitative services
9 (described in section 7305 of this title), and de-
10 terminations regarding the extent to which
11 services to be provided in each service-delivery
12 area and each facility in such area should be
13 provided directly through facilities of the De-
14 partment or through contract or other arrange-
15 ments, including arrangements authorized
16 under sections 8111 and 8153 of this title; and

17 “(F) a five-year plan for construction, re-
18 placement, or alteration projects in support of
19 the approved mission of each facility in the net-
20 work and a description of how those projects
21 will improve access to care, or quality of care,
22 for patients served in the network.

23 “(4) A status report for each facility on
24 progress toward—

1 “(A) instituting planned mission changes
2 identified under paragraph (3)(B);

3 “(B) implementing principles of managed
4 care of eligible veterans; and

5 “(C) developing and instituting cost-effective
6 alternatives to provision of institutional
7 care.”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 section:

10 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall submit to each commit-
11 tee, not later than January 31 of each year, a report show-
12 ing the current priorities of the Department for proposed
13 major medical construction projects. Each such report
14 shall identify the 20 projects, from within all the projects
15 in the Department’s inventory of proposed projects, that
16 have the highest priority and, for those 20 projects, the
17 relative priority and rank scoring of each such project.
18 The 20 projects shall be compiled, and their relative
19 rankings shall be shown, by category of project (including
20 the categories of ambulatory care projects, nursing home
21 care projects, and such other categories as the Secretary
22 determines).

23 “(2) The Secretary shall include in each report, for
24 each project listed, a description of the specific factors

1 that account for the relative ranking of that project in re-
2 lation to other projects within the same category.

3 “(3) In a case in which the relative ranking of a pro-
4 posed project has changed since the last report under this
5 subsection was submitted, the Secretary shall also include
6 in the report a description of the reasons for the change
7 in the ranking, including an explanation of any change in
8 the scoring of the project under the Department’s scoring
9 system for proposed major medical construction
10 projects.”.

11 **SEC. 202. REVISION TO PROSPECTUS REQUIREMENTS.**

12 (a) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Section 8104(b) of
13 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

14 (1) by striking out “shall include—” and insert-
15 ing in lieu thereof “shall include the following:”;

16 (2) in paragraph (1)—

17 (A) by striking out “a detailed” and insert-
18 ing in lieu thereof “A detailed”; and

19 (B) by striking out the semicolon at the
20 end and inserting in lieu thereof a period;

21 (3) in paragraph (2)—

22 (A) by striking out “an estimate” and in-
23 serting in lieu thereof “An estimate”; and

24 (B) by striking out “; and” and inserting
25 in lieu thereof a period;

1 (4) in paragraph (3), by striking out “an esti-
2 mate” and inserting in lieu thereof “An estimate”;
3 and

4 (5) by adding at the end the following new
5 paragraphs:

6 “(4) Demographic data applicable to the
7 project, including information on projected changes
8 in the population of veterans to be served by the
9 project over a five-year period and a ten-year period.

10 “(5) Current and projected workload and utili-
11 zation data.

12 “(6) Current and projected operating costs of
13 the facility, to include both recurring and non-recur-
14 ring costs.

15 “(7) The priority score assigned to the project
16 under the Department’s prioritization methodology
17 and, if the project is being proposed for funding
18 ahead of a project with a higher score, a specific ex-
19 planation of the factors other than the priority that
20 were considered and the basis on which the project
21 is proposed for funding ahead of projects with high-
22 er priority scores.

23 “(8) A listing of each alternative to construc-
24 tion of the facility that has been considered.”.

1 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
2 section (a) shall apply with respect to any prospectus sub-
3 mitted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act.

5 **SEC. 203. CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION REQUIRE-**
6 **MENTS.**

7 (a) DEFINITION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY
8 PROJECT.—Paragraph (3)(A) of section 8104(a) of title
9 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out
10 “\$3,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

11 (b) APPLICABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZA-
12 TION REQUIREMENT.—(1) Subsection (b) of section 301
13 of the Veterans’ Medical Programs Amendments of 1992
14 (Public Law 102–405; 106 Stat. 1984) is repealed.

15 (2) The amendments made by subsection (a) of such
16 section shall apply with respect to any major medical facil-
17 ity project or any major medical facility lease of the De-
18 partment of Veterans Affairs, regardless of when funds
19 are first appropriated for that project or lease, except that
20 in the case of a project for which funds were first appro-
21 priated before October 9, 1992, such amendments shall
22 not apply with respect to amounts appropriated for that
23 project for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1998.

24 (c) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS FOR ADVANCE
25 PLANNING.—Section 8104 of title 38, United States Code,

1 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 section:

3 “(f) The Secretary may not obligate funds in an
4 amount in excess of \$500,000 from the Advance Planning
5 Fund of the Department toward design or development
6 of a major medical facility project until—

7 “(1) the Secretary submits to the committees a
8 report on the proposed obligation; and

9 “(2) a period of 30 days has passed after the
10 date on which the report is received by the commit-
11 tees.”.

12 **SEC. 204. TERMINOLOGY CHANGES.**

13 (a) DEFINITION OF “CONSTRUCT”.—Section
14 8101(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

15 (1) by striking out “working drawings” and in-
16 serting in lieu thereof “construction documents”;
17 and

18 (2) by striking out “preliminary plans” and in-
19 serting in lieu thereof “design development”.

20 (b) PARKING FACILITIES.—Section 8109(h)(3)(B) of
21 such title is amended by striking out “working drawings”
22 and inserting in lieu thereof “construction documents”.

1 **SEC. 205. VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION HEAD-**
2 **QUARTERS.**

3 (a) REPEAL OF STATUTORY SPECIFICATION OF OR-
4 GANIZATIONAL SERVICES.—The text of section 7305 of
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 “(a) The Veterans Health Administration shall in-
8 clude the Office of the Under Secretary for Health and
9 such professional and auxiliary services as the Secretary
10 may find to be necessary to carry out the functions of the
11 Administration.

12 “(b) In organizing, and appointing persons to posi-
13 tions in, the Office, the Under Secretary shall ensure that
14 the Office is staffed so as to provide the Under Secretary
15 with appropriate expertise, including expertise in—

16 “(1) unique programs operated by the Adminis-
17 tration to provide for the specialized treatment and
18 rehabilitation of disabled veterans (including blind
19 rehabilitation, spinal cord dysfunction, mental ill-
20 ness, and geriatrics and long-term care); and

21 “(2) appropriate clinical care disciplines.”.

22 (b) OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY.—Section
23 7306 of such title is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)—

25 (A) by striking out “and who shall be a
26 qualified doctor of medicine” in paragraph (2);

1 (B) by striking out paragraphs (5), (6),
2 and (7); and

3 (C) by redesignating the succeeding two
4 paragraphs as paragraphs (5) and (6), respec-
5 tively; and

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) by striking out “subsection (a)(3)”
8 and all that follows through “two may be” and
9 inserting in lieu thereof “subsection (a)(3), not
10 more than two may be”;

11 (B) by striking out the semicolon after
12 “dental medicines” and inserting in lieu thereof
13 a period; and

14 (C) by striking out paragraphs (2) and (3).

15 **TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS**

16 **SEC. 301. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

17 **MEDICAL CENTER, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.**

18 (a) NAME.—The Department of Veterans Affairs
19 medical center in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and
20 designated as the “G. V. Sonny Montgomery Department
21 of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”. Any reference to
22 such medical center in any law, regulation, map, docu-
23 ment, record, or other paper of the United States shall
24 be considered to be a reference to the G. V. Sonny Mont-
25 gomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take ef-
 2 fect at noon on January 3, 1997, or the first day on which
 3 G. V. Sonny Montgomery otherwise ceases to be a Member
 4 of the House of Representatives.

5 **SEC 302. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 6 **MEDICAL CENTER, JOHNSON CITY, TEN-**
 7 **NESSEE.**

8 (a) NAME.—The Mountain Home Department of
 9 Veterans Affairs medical center in Johnson City, Ten-
 10 nessee, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act
 11 be known and designated as the “James H. Quillen De-
 12 partment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”. Any ref-
 13 erence to such medical center in any law, regulation, map,
 14 document, record, or other paper of the United States
 15 shall be considered to be a reference to the James H. Quil-
 16 len Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take ef-
 18 fect at noon on January 3, 1997, or the first day on which
 19 James H. Quillen otherwise ceases to be a Member of the
 20 House of Representatives.

21 **SEC. 303. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 22 **NURSING CARE CENTER, ASPINWALL, PENN-**
 23 **SYLVANIA.**

24 The Department of Veterans Affairs nursing care
 25 center at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical cen-

1 ter in Aspinwall, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “H.
3 John Heinz, III Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing
4 Care Center”. Any reference to such nursing care center
5 in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other
6 paper of the United States shall be considered to be a ref-
7 erence to the H. John Heinz, III Department of Veterans
8 Affairs Nursing Care Center.

9 **SEC. 304. RESTORATION OF AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISH-**
10 **MENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
11 **FAIRS RESEARCH CORPORATIONS.**

12 Section 7368 of title 38, United States Code, is
13 amended by striking out “December 31, 1992” and insert-
14 ing in lieu thereof “December 31, 2000”.

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