

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3376

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 1996

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

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,*

TITLE I—CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

(a) AMBULATORY CARE ADDITION PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following ambulatory care addition major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in the amount specified for that project:

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

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

(3) Addition of ambulatory care facilities for outpatient improvements at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Shreveport, Louisiana, \$25,000,000.

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

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

4 (6) Addition of ambulatory care facilities at the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in
6 Asheville, North Carolina, in the amount of
7 \$28,800,000.

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

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

14 (b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.—
15 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the fol-
16 lowing environmental improvement major medical facility
17 projects, with each project to be carried out in the amount
18 specified for that project:

19 (1) Environmental improvements for the ren-
20 ovation of nursing home facilities at the Department
21 of Veterans Affairs medical center in Lebanon,
22 Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$9,500,000.

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

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

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

8 (5) Environmental improvements for ward ren-
9 ovation for patient privacy at the Department of
10 Veterans Affairs medical center in Omaha, Ne-
11 braska, \$7,700,000.

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

15 (7) Environmental improvements for the ren-
16 ovation of various buildings at the Department of
17 Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas,
18 \$26,000,000.

19 (8) Environmental improvements for the re-
20 placement of psychiatric beds at the Department of
21 Veterans Affairs medical center in Marion, Indiana,
22 in the amount of \$17,300,000.

23 (9) Environmental improvements for the ren-
24 ovation of psychiatric wards at the Department of

1 Veterans Affairs medical center in Perry Point,
2 Maryland, in the amount of \$15,100,000.

3 (10) Environmental enhancement at the De-
4 partment of Veterans Affairs medical center in
5 Salisbury, North Carolina, in the amount of
6 \$18,200,000.

7 (c) SEISMIC CORRECTION PROJECTS.—The Secretary
8 of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following seismic
9 correction major medical facility projects, with each
10 project to be carried out in the amount specified for that
11 project:

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

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

18 (3) Seismic corrections at the Department of
19 Veterans Affairs medical center in San Francisco,
20 California, \$26,000,000.

21 **SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
22 **LEASES.**

23 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into
24 leases for medical facilities as follows:

1 (1) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic in Al-
2 lentown, Pennsylvania, in an amount not to exceed
3 \$2,159,000.

4 (2) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic in
5 Beaumont, Texas, in an amount not to exceed
6 \$1,940,000.

7 (3) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic in Bos-
8 ton, Massachusetts, in an amount not to exceed
9 \$2,358,000.

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

12 (5) Lease of a satellite outpatient clinic and
13 Veterans Benefits Administration field office in San
14 Antonio, Texas, in an amount not to exceed
15 \$2,256,000.

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

18 **SEC. 103. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
20 priated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year
21 1997—

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

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

3 (b) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in section
4 101 may only be carried out using—

5 (1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 1997 pur-
6 suant to the authorization of appropriations in sub-
7 section (a);

8 (2) funds appropriated for Construction, Major
9 Projects for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1997 that
10 remain available for obligation; and

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

14 **SEC. 104. REPORT ON HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS**
15 **IN EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA.**

16 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
19 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-
20 tives a report on the health care needs of veterans in east
21 central Florida. In preparing the report, the Secretary
22 shall consider the needs of such veterans for psychiatric
23 and long-term care. The Secretary shall include in the re-
24 port the Secretary's views, based on the Secretary's deter-
25 mination of such needs, as to the best means of meeting

1 such needs using the amounts appropriated pursuant to
2 the authorization of appropriations in this Act and Public
3 Law 103–452 for projects to meet the health care needs
4 of such veterans. The Secretary may, subject to the avail-
5 ability of appropriations for such purpose, use an inde-
6 pendent contractor to assist in the determination of such
7 health care needs.

8 (b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not obligate
9 any funds, other than for design work, for the conversion
10 of the former Orlando Naval Training Center Hospital in
11 Orlando, Florida (now under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs), to a nursing home care unit
13 until 45 days after the date on which the report required
14 by subsection (a) is submitted.

15 **TITLE II—STRATEGIC PLANNING** 16 **FOR HEALTH CARE RESOURCES**

17 **SEC. 201. STRATEGIC PLANNING.**

18 Section 8107 of title 38, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
21 section (c);

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

24 “(a) In order to promote effective planning for the
25 efficient provision of care to eligible veterans, the Sec-

1 retary, based on the analysis and recommendations of the
2 Under Secretary for Health, shall submit to each commit-
3 tee, not later than January 31 of each year, a report re-
4 garding long-range health planning of the Department.

5 “(b) Each report under subsection (a) shall include
6 the following:

7 “(1) A five-year strategic plan for the provision
8 of care under chapter 17 of this title to eligible vet-
9 erans through coordinated networks of medical fa-
10 cilities operating within prescribed geographic serv-
11 ice-delivery areas, such plan to include provision of
12 services for the specialized treatment and rehabilita-
13 tive needs of disabled veterans (including veterans
14 with spinal cord dysfunction, blindness, amputations,
15 and mental illness) through distinct programs or fa-
16 cilities of the Department dedicated to the special-
17 ized needs of those veterans.

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

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

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

1 “(B) any planned change in the mission
2 for any such facility and the rationale for such
3 planned change;

4 “(C) the population of veterans to be
5 served by the network and anticipated changes
6 over a five-year period and a ten-year period,
7 respectively, in that population and in the
8 health-care needs of that population;

9 “(D) information relevant to assessing
10 progress toward the goal of achieving relative
11 equivalency in the level of resources per patient
12 distributed to each network, such information
13 to include the plans for and progress toward
14 lowering the cost of care-delivery in the network
15 (by means such as changes in the mix in the
16 network of physicians, nurses, physician assist-
17 ants, and advance practice nurses);

18 “(E) the capacity of non-Federal facilities
19 in the network to provide acute, long-term, and
20 specialized treatment and rehabilitative services
21 (described in section 7305 of this title), and de-
22 terminations regarding the extent to which
23 services to be provided in each service-delivery
24 area and each facility in such area should be
25 provided directly through facilities of the De-

1 partment or through contract or other arrange-
2 ments, including arrangements authorized
3 under sections 8111 and 8153 of this title; and

4 “(F) a five-year plan for construction, re-
5 placement, or alteration projects in support of
6 the approved mission of each facility in the net-
7 work and a description of how those projects
8 will improve access to care, or quality of care,
9 for patients served in the network.

10 “(4) A status report for each facility on
11 progress toward—

12 “(A) instituting planned mission changes
13 identified under paragraph (3)(B);

14 “(B) implementing principles of managed
15 care of eligible veterans; and

16 “(C) developing and instituting cost-effec-
17 tive alternatives to provision of institutional
18 care.”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 section:

21 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall submit to each commit-
22 tee, not later than January 31 of each year, a report show-
23 ing the current priorities of the Department for proposed
24 major medical construction projects. Each such report
25 shall identify the 20 projects, from within all the projects

1 in the Department’s inventory of proposed projects, that
 2 have the highest priority and, for those 20 projects, the
 3 relative priority and rank scoring of each such project.
 4 The 20 projects shall be compiled, and their relative
 5 rankings shall be shown, by category of project (including
 6 the categories of ambulatory care projects, nursing home
 7 care projects, and such other categories as the Secretary
 8 determines).

9 “(2) The Secretary shall include in each report, for
 10 each project listed, a description of the specific factors
 11 that account for the relative ranking of that project in re-
 12 lation to other projects within the same category.

13 “(3) In a case in which the relative ranking of a pro-
 14 posed project has changed since the last report under this
 15 subsection was submitted, the Secretary shall also include
 16 in the report a description of the reasons for the change
 17 in the ranking, including an explanation of any change in
 18 the scoring of the project under the Department’s scoring
 19 system for proposed major medical construction
 20 projects.”.

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

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

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

1 (2) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

6 (3) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

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

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

20 “(5) Current and projected workload and utili-
21 zation data.

22 “(6) Current and projected operating costs of
23 the facility, to include both recurring and non-recur-
24 ring costs.

1 “(7) The priority score assigned to the project
2 under the Department’s prioritization methodology
3 and, if the project is being proposed for funding
4 ahead of a project with a higher score, a specific ex-
5 planation of the factors other than the priority that
6 were considered and the basis on which the project
7 is proposed for funding ahead of projects with high-
8 er priority scores.

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

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

15 **SEC. 203. CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION REQUIRE-**
16 **MENTS.**

17 (a) DEFINITION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY
18 PROJECT.—Paragraph (3)(A) of section 8104(a) of title
19 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out
20 “\$3,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

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

1 (2) The amendments made by subsection (a) of such
 2 section shall apply with respect to any major medical facil-
 3 ity project or any major medical facility lease of the De-
 4 partment of Veterans Affairs, regardless of when funds
 5 are first appropriated for that project or lease, except that
 6 in the case of a project for which funds were first appro-
 7 priated before October 9, 1992, such amendments shall
 8 not apply with respect to amounts appropriated for that
 9 project for a fiscal year before fiscal year 1998.

10 (c) LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS FOR ADVANCE
 11 PLANNING.—Section 8104 of title 38, United States Code,
 12 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
 13 section:

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

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

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

23 **SEC. 204. TERMINOLOGY CHANGES.**

24 (a) DEFINITION OF “CONSTRUCT”.—Section
 25 8101(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking out “working drawings” and in-
 2 serting in lieu thereof “construction documents”;
 3 and

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

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

9 **SEC. 205. VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION HEAD-**
 10 **QUARTERS.**

11 (a) **REPEAL OF STATUTORY SPECIFICATION OF OR-**
 12 **GANIZATIONAL SERVICES.**—The text of section 7305 of
 13 title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
 14 lows:

15 “(a) The Veterans Health Administration shall in-
 16 clude the Office of the Under Secretary for Health and
 17 such professional and auxiliary services as the Secretary
 18 may find to be necessary to carry out the functions of the
 19 Administration.

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

24 “(1) unique programs operated by the Adminis-
 25 tration to provide for the specialized treatment and

1 rehabilitation of disabled veterans (including blind
2 rehabilitation, spinal cord dysfunction, mental ill-
3 ness, and geriatrics and long-term care); and

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

5 (b) OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY.—Section
6 7306 of such title is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

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

10 (B) by striking out paragraphs (5), (6),
11 and (7); and

12 (C) by redesignating the succeeding two
13 paragraphs as paragraphs (5) and (6), respec-
14 tively; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking out “subsection (a)(3)”
17 and all that follows through “two may be” and
18 inserting in lieu thereof “subsection (a)(3), not
19 more than two may be”;

20 (B) by striking out the semicolon after
21 “dental medicines” and inserting in lieu thereof
22 a period; and

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

1 **TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS**

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

3 **MEDICAL CENTER, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.**

4 (a) NAME.—The Department of Veterans Affairs
5 medical center in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and
6 designated as the “G. V. Sonny Montgomery Department
7 of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”. Any reference to
8 such medical center in any law, regulation, map, docu-
9 ment, record, or other paper of the United States shall
10 be considered to be a reference to the G. V. Sonny Mont-
11 gomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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

16 **SEC 302. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

17 **MEDICAL CENTER, JOHNSON CITY, TEN-**
18 **NESSEE.**

19 (a) NAME.—The Mountain Home Department of
20 Veterans Affairs medical center in Johnson City, Ten-
21 nessee, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act
22 be known and designated as the “James H. Quillen De-
23 partment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”. Any ref-
24 erence to such medical center in any law, regulation, map,
25 document, record, or other paper of the United States

1 shall be considered to be a reference to the James H. Quil-
2 len Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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

7 **SEC. 303. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
8 **NURSING CARE CENTER, ASPINWALL, PENN-**
9 **SYLVANIA.**

10 The Department of Veterans Affairs nursing care
11 center at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical cen-
12 ter in Aspinwall, Pennsylvania, shall after the date of the
13 enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “H.
14 John Heinz, III Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing
15 Care Center”. Any reference to such nursing care center
16 in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other
17 paper of the United States shall be considered to be a ref-
18 erence to the H. John Heinz, III Department of Veterans
19 Affairs Nursing Care Center.

1 **SEC. 304. RESTORATION OF AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISH-**
2 **MENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS RESEARCH CORPORATIONS.**

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

Passed the House of Representatives June 4, 1996.

Attest: ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.