

**Public Law 112-37**  
**(H.R. 2646)**  
**Veterans Health Care Capital Facilities Improvement Act of 2011**

**Mr. Johnson of Ohio** introduced H.R. 2646 on July 26, 2011.

**Public Law 112-37 will:**

- Authorize the following major medical facility construction projects: seismic corrections for Building 100 at the VA Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, in an amount not to exceed \$51,800,000; and seismic corrections and renovations of twelve buildings, including Building 209 to house homeless veterans, at the VA Medical Center in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$35,500,000.
- Modify the scope of a previously-authorized major medical facility construction project to allow for a new clinical addition and new parking garage at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas in an amount not to exceed \$90,600,000. It would also authorize an expansion of scope, to include a Simulation, Learning, Education and Research Network Center, as a part of the previously authorized major medical facility at the VA Medical Center in Orlando, Florida.
- Authorize the following previously-authorized major medical facility construction projects: Ambulatory Care, Polytrauma, and Blind Rehabilitation Centers at the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto, California, in an amount not to exceed \$716,600,000; seismic corrections for Building 1 at the VA Medical Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in an amount not to exceed \$277,000,000; and seismic corrections and cemetery expansion at the VA Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri, in an amount not to exceed \$346,300,000.
- Authorize the Department to enter into eight leases: a community based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, in an amount not to exceed \$5,335,000; an outpatient clinic in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in an amount not to exceed \$2,845,000; an outpatient clinic in Mobile, Alabama, in an amount not to exceed \$6,565,000; an outpatient clinic in Rochester, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$9,232,000; a community based outpatient clinic in Salem, Oregon, in an amount not to exceed \$2,549,000; an outpatient clinic in San Jose, California, in an amount not to exceed \$9,546,000; an outpatient clinic in South Bend, Indiana, in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000; and a community based outpatient clinic in Springfield, Missouri, in an amount not to exceed \$6,489,000.
- Authorize appropriations to carry out the projects and leases authorized in this title -- \$87,300,000 and \$850,070,000 would be authorized to be appropriated in the Construction, Major Projects account in fiscal year 2012 for the construction projects in sections 2 and 3, respectively. Additionally, \$49,292,000 would be authorized to be appropriated from the Medical Facilities account in fiscal year 2012 to carry out the leases.
- Require VA to submit additional information when requesting congressional authorization for major medical facility projects.
- Require VA to obtain congressional authorization when using bid savings to expand the purpose of a major medical facility project.
- Name the telehealth clinic in Craig, Colorado the “Major William Edward Adams, Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.”
- Name the VA medical center in Big Spring, Texas the “George H. O’Brien Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.”

- Extend VA's authority to conduct recovery audits for contracts from the current expiration date of September 30, 2013 through September 30, 2020.
- Extend through September 30, 2012, the existing \$50 million authorization for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) grant administered by the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service.
- Extend VA's authority to provide treatment and rehabilitative services to seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans; to operate centers for the provision of comprehensive services to homeless veterans; and to maintain the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans from their current expiration dates of December 31, 2011, to December 31, 2012 and to transfer property to assist homeless veterans in acquiring shelter through December 31, 2018
- Increase the authorization to \$250 million for the comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans in fiscal year 2012.
- Authorize \$100 million for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing in 2012.
- Authorize \$5 million for the grant program for homeless veterans with special needs in 2012. The current authorization expires on September 30, 2011.
- Extend VA's authority to provide assistance for individuals residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member from the current expiration date of December 31, 2011 until December 31, 2012.
- Extend through November 18, 2011, VA's authority to collect a fee in connection with use of VA's home loan guaranty benefit at the fee rates described in section 3729 of title 38, United States Code, which fee rates are set to be reduced on October 1, 2011.
- Extend through November 18, 2011, VA's authority to obtain information from the Secretary of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service to verify eligibility of recipients in VA needs-based programs.
- Extend through November 18, 2011, VA's authority to obtain information from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to verify eligibility of recipients in VA needs-based programs.

**Legislative History:**

- Jul. 28, 2011: Ordered reported, as amended, by the Subcommittee on Health.
- Sept. 8, 2011: Ordered reported, as amended, by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs by voice vote.
- Sept. 15, 2011: Reported, H. Rept. 112-209.
- Sept. 20, 2011: Passed the House by the Yeas and Nays: 412-3 (Roll No. 714)
- Sept. 23, 2011: Passed the Senate by unanimous consent.
- Oct. 5, 2011: Signed by the President, Public Law 112-37.