

Manager's Package
FY26 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Bill Language

1. Bill Language for Senator Peters on Staffing Levels
2. Bill Language for Senators Moran and Schatz on Veterans in the Freely Associated States
3. Bill Language for Senators Collins and Murray on Financial Reports to the Committee

Report Language

1. Report language for Senator Rounds on Mobility Rehabilitation
2. Report language for Senator Hoeven on Lodging Facilities
3. Report language for Senator Baldwin on Jason's Law implementation
4. Report language for Senator Baldwin on Implementation of the Elizabeth Dole Act
5. Report language for Senator Shaheen on Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program
6. Report Language for Senator Reed on VA Data Privacy
7. Report language for Senator Gillibrand on Armory Headquarters
8. Report language for Senator Schatz on the VHA Center for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and United States Pacific Islander

Staffing Levels

At the appropriate place in the **bill**, insert the following:

Sec. _____. The Department is directed to maintain staffing levels to facilitate the Department's own goals, including that benefits claims are adjudicated according to the 125 day goal, and that healthcare appointments and service are provided in the timeframes required by statute and regulation.

Veterans in the Freely Associated States

At the appropriate place in the **bill**, insert the following:

Sec. _____. The Department is directed to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the status of implementation of the provisions in Public Law 118-42 related to veterans in the Freely Associated States [FAS] in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent, including engagement with FAS governments, a projected timeline for veterans in the FAS to receive hospital care and medical services, and an estimate of the cost of implementation.

Financial Reports to the Committee

At the appropriate place in the **bill**, Insert the following:

Sec. ____ (a) Each department or agency funded in this or any other appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 shall, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on funds that are allotted and available for obligation as of the end of the reporting period and on obligations as of the end of the reporting period: *Provided*, That such report shall be delineated by: (1) program, project, and activity level; (2) public law making such funds available; and (3) period of availability: *Provided further*, That such reports shall be transmitted to the Committees monthly thereafter, on the fifteenth of each such month, during the period of availability of the relevant funds.

(b) The term “reporting period” as used in this section means the month that precedes the date on which the department or agency transmits the report to the Committees

Mobility Rehabilitation in State Veterans Homes

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Mobility Rehabilitation in State Veterans Homes.—The Committee recognizes the critical need for mobility rehabilitation among aging and disabled veterans residing in state-run veterans homes. The use of unweighted walking devices has shown promise in improving rehabilitation outcomes, reducing fall risks, and enhancing veterans' quality of life. The Committee supports efforts to expand access to mobility rehabilitation technologies for veterans in state-run veterans homes and urges VA to work with state facilities so that veterans have access to devices and therapies that enable veterans to regain mobility.

Lodging Facilities

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Lodging Facilities.—The Committee remains concerned about lodging shortages at Army National Guard regional centers that support training and readiness activities, as well as support training for external local, state, federal and tribal agencies. The Committee encourages the Army National Guard to allocate adequate funding to address such lodging shortfalls, particularly at installations with new training and readiness requirements and for projects that have completed design.

Jason's Law Implementation

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Jason's Law Implementation.— The Committee acknowledges the 2025 Office of Inspector General report finding that 67% of VHA facilities were fully in compliance with Jason's Law as of October 2024. The Committee directs the Secretary to develop a plan to increase compliance and identify resources required to do so. The Secretary shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report and briefing on such plan no later than 120 days after enactment of this act.

Elizabeth Dole Act Implementation

On page 32 of the **report**, at the end of the paragraph on Support to County, Tribal, and Equivalent Governmental Veterans Service Officers, insert the following:

Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the Department is directed to provide a briefing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the progress made on implementation of Section 302 of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, including a plan to obligate the full authorized funding level in support of this program.

Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program

On Page 45 of the **report**, under the heading “VA Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program,” strike the first sentence and replace with:

Of the amounts made available to the Department, the Committee recommendation includes \$36,879,000 for the IPVAP for fiscal year 2026 and the Department is directed to include it as a program of interest with budget detail in the justifications accompanying future year budget submissions.

VA Data Privacy

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Data Privacy.—The Department is directed to ensure strict compliance with all privacy laws and to prohibit access to any data systems of the Department containing veteran or employee information, except by employees whose job to provide care or benefits to veterans requires such access, and such access is limited to the information necessary to provide such care or benefits.

42nd ID Armory Headquarters

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

42nd Infantry Division Armory Headquarters.—The Committee is concerned about the lack of progress made by the Army in finalizing the required renovation and modernization of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Troy, New York. The Committee understands that the State of New York has already provided significant contributions to the critical project, which will meet essential requirements while allowing Watervliet Arsenal to advance planned construction. In order to avoid additional delays and unnecessary leasing costs, the Committee urges the Secretary of the Army to prioritize the execution of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters project and directs the Department to brief the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the plans for doing so within 90 days of enactment of this act.

Center for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and United States Pacific Islander Veterans Health

On page 47 of the **report**, at the end of the paragraph on *[NHPIUSAPI] Veterans Health*:

strike “The Center is provided funding consistent with the budget request” and replace with “ The Center is provided funding consistent with amounts provided in fiscal year 2024.”

pMilCon-VA Amendment - Senator Merkley – Amendment #1

July 17, 2025

Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act to interfere with the ability of veterans to participate in medicinal cannabis programs approved by States or deny services to such veterans.

Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MERKLEY

Viz: At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used in a manner that would—

- (1) interfere with the ability of a veteran to participate in a medicinal marijuana program approved by a State;
- (2) deny any services from the Department to a veteran who is participating in such a program; or
- (3) limit or interfere with the ability of a health care provider of the Department to make appropriate recommendations, fill out forms, or take steps to comply with such a program.