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# [COMMITTEE PRINT]

NOTICE: This bill is a draft for use of the Committee and its Staff only, in preparation for markup.

# Calendar No. 000

117TH CONGRESS 2D Session



[Report No. 117-000]

Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes.

# IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

Mr. HEINRICH, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following original bill; which was read twice and placed on the calendar

# A BILL

Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, 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,

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any
 money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for
 military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs,
 and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September
 30, 2023, and for other purposes, namely:

6	TITLE I
7	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
8	MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

9 For acquisition, construction, installation, and equip-10 ment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as 11 12 currently authorized by law, including personnel in the 13 Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services nec-14 essary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for con-15 struction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$1,481,665,000, to re-16 main available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, 17 18 of this amount, not to exceed \$235,491,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer 19 20services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, 21 unless the Secretary of the Army determines that addi-22 tional obligations are necessary for such purposes and no-23 tifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses 24 of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: 25 *Provided further*, That of the amount made available

under this heading, \$624,100,000 shall be for the projects
 and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the
 heading "Military Construction, Army" in the explanatory
 statement accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts
 otherwise available for such purposes.

# 6 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

7 For acquisition, construction, installation, and equip-8 ment of temporary or permanent public works, naval in-9 stallations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and 10 Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command 11 12 and other personal services necessary for the purposes of 13 this appropriation, \$4,024,314,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of this amount, 14 15 not to exceed \$434,524,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as 16 17 authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy deter-18 mines that additional obligations are necessary for such 19 purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations 20 of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the 21 reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount 22 made available under this heading, \$486,980,000 shall be 23 for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, speci-24 fied under the heading "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps" in the explanatory statement accom-25

panying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise avail able for such purposes.

3 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

4 For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military 5 installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force 6 7 as currently authorized by law, \$2,306,796,000, to remain 8 available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of this 9 amount, not to exceed \$210,934,000 shall be available for 10 study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air 11 12 Force determines that additional obligations are necessary 13 for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination 14 15 and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$323,840,000 16 17 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading "Military Construction, Air 18 19 Force" in the explanatory statement accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such 20 21 purposes.

- 22 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE
- 23 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equip-ment of temporary or permanent public works, installa-

tions, facilities, and real property for activities and agen-1 2 cies of the Department of Defense (other than the military authorized 3 departments), currently by as law. 4 \$2,514,648,000, to remain available until September 30, 5 2027: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may 6 7 be transferred to such appropriations of the Department 8 of Defense available for military construction or family 9 housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with 10 and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which 11 12 transferred: *Provided further*, That, of the amount, not to 13 exceed \$473,197,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as au-14 15 thorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such 16 purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations 17 18 of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount 19 made available under this heading, \$50,950,000 shall be 20 21 for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, speci-22 fied under the heading "Military Construction, Defense-23 Wide" in the explanatory statement accompanying this 24 Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such 25 purposes.

# 1 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

2 For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilita-3 tion, and conversion of facilities for the training and ad-4 ministration of the Army National Guard, and contribu-5 tions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authoriza-6 7 tion Acts, \$480,638,000, to remain available until Sep-8 tember 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to 9 exceed \$82,555,000 shall be available for study, planning, 10 design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard 11 12 determines that additional obligations are necessary for 13 such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and 14 15 the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$150,160,000 shall be 16 for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, speci-17 fied under the heading "Military Construction, Army Na-18 tional Guard" in the explanatory statement accompanying 19 20 this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for 21 such purposes.

# 22 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions

therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United 1 2 States Code, and Military Construction Authorization 3 Acts, \$242,553,000, to remain available until September 4 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed 5 \$43,182,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, 6 7 unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines 8 that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes 9 and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both 10 Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made avail-11 able under this heading, \$101,170,000 shall be for the 12 projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified 13 under the heading "Military Construction, Air National 14 15 Guard" in the explanatory statement accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such 16 17 purposes.

18 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$221,878,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$37,829,000 shall be available for

study, planning, design, and architect and engineer serv-1 ices, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army 2 3 Reserve determines that additional obligations are nec-4 essary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on 5 Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That 6 7 of the amount made available under this heading, 8 \$74,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and 9 in the amounts, specified under the heading "Military Construction, Army Reserve" in the explanatory state-10 ment accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts oth-11 12 erwise available for such purposes.

13 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

14 For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilita-15 tion, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and 16 Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, 17 18 United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$30,337,000, to remain available until Sep-19 20 tember 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount, not to 21 exceed \$2,590,000 shall be available for study, planning, 22 design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized 23 by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that 24 additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and

notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses
 of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

# 3 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

4 For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilita-5 tion, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by 6 7 chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military 8 Construction Authorization Acts, \$93,423,000, to remain 9 available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the 10 amount, not to exceed \$21,573,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer serv-11 ices, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air 12 13 Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees 14 15 on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, 16 That of the amount made available under this heading, 17 18 \$35,800,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified under the heading "Military 19 Construction, Air Force Reserve" in the explanatory state-20 21 ment accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts oth-22 erwise available for such purposes.

# NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

3 For the United States share of the cost of the North 4 Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Pro-5 gram for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military 6 7 headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective 8 defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized 9 by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Mili-10 tary Construction Authorization Acts, \$210,139,000, to remain available until expended. 11

12 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base
Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10
U.S.C. 2687 note), \$296,687,000, to remain available
until September 30, 2027.

18 FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law,
\$169,339,000, to remain available until September 30,
2027.

	**				
1	FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,				
2	Army				
3	For expenses of family housing for the Army for op-				
4	eration and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing,				
5	minor construction, principal and interest charges, and in-				
6	surance premiums, as authorized by law, \$436,411,000.				
7	FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE				
8	Corps				
9	For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Ma-				
10	rine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replace-				
11	ment, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as				
12	authorized by law, \$337,297,000, to remain available until				
13	September 30, 2027.				
14	FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,				
15	NAVY AND MARINE CORPS				
16	For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Ma-				
17	rine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt				
18	payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and inter-				
19	est charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by				
20	law, \$368,224,000.				
21	FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE				
22	For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for				
23	construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition,				
24	expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law,				

\$232,788,000, to remain available until September 30,
 2027.

3 FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR

4

# Force

5 For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leas-6 7 ing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, 8 and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$355,222,000. 9

10 FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,

11

# Defense-Wide

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$50,113,000.

- 17 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING
- 18 Improvement Fund

19 For the Department of Defense Family Housing Im-20 provement Fund, \$6,442,000, to remain available until ex-21 pended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursu-22 ant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, pro-23 viding alternative means of acquiring and improving mili-24 tary family housing and supporting facilities.

1 Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied

2 HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, \$494,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

10 Administrative Provisions

11 SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this 12 title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-13 fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates 14 exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, 15 except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of 16 the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons there-17 for.

18 SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for con-19 struction shall be available for hire of passenger motor ve-20 hicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for
the construction of access roads as authorized by section
210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects author-

ized therein are certified as important to the national de fense by the Secretary of Defense.

3 SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this 4 title may be used to begin construction of new bases in 5 the United States for which specific appropriations have 6 not been made.

7 SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this 8 title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements 9 in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by 10 the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determina-11 tion of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated 12 by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney 13 General; (3) where the estimated value is less than 14 15 \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest. 16

17 SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this 18 title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site 19 preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, 20 except housing for which funds have been made available 21 in annual Acts making appropriations for military con-22 struction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this
title for minor construction may be used to transfer or
relocate any activity from one base or installation to an-

other, without prior notification to the Committees on Ap propriations of both Houses of Congress.

3 SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this 4 title may be used for the procurement of steel for any con-5 struction project or activity for which American steel pro-6 ducers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied 7 the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

8 SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Depart-9 ment of Defense for military construction or family hous-10 ing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real 11 property taxes in any foreign nation.

12 SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this 13 title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas 14 without prior notification to the Committees on Appro-15 priations of both Houses of Congress.

16 SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this 17 title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for 18 19 projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlan-20 tic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries 21 bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are 22 awarded to United States firms or United States firms 23 in joint venture with host nation firms.

24 SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this 25 title for military construction in the United States terri-

tories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein 1 Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be 2 3 used to award any contract estimated by the Government 4 to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, 5 That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid 6 7 of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest respon-8 sive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater 9 than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall 10 not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and re-11 12 sponsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

20 SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of 21 Defense for construction in prior years shall be available 22 for construction authorized for each such military depart-23 ment by the authorizations enacted into law during the 24 current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing
 projects that are being completed with funds otherwise ex pired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may
 be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspec tion, overhead, engineering and design on those projects
 and on subsequent claims, if any.

7 SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of 8 law, any funds made available to a military department 9 or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or 10 contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, 11 12 at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made 13 14 available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are 15 obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated 16 17 for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of 18 such project is increased pursuant to law.

## 19 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be

transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family 1 2 Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be 3 4 merged with and to be available for the same purposes 5 and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense 6 7 Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund 8 from amounts appropriated for construction of military 9 unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" ac-10 counts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts ap-11 12 propriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropria-13 tions made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Con-14 15 gressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant 16 to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 17 18 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means 19 of acquiring and improving military family housing, mili-20 tary unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

21 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority
available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be
transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure
Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the

Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act
 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated
 with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under
 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall
 be merged with and be available for the same purposes
 and for the same time period as the fund to which trans ferred.

8 SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of 9 law, funds made available in this title for operation and 10 maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family 11 12 housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: 13 *Provided*, That not more than \$35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any gen-14 15 eral or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic 16 17 medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, 18 United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations 19 of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact 20notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded 21 solely due to costs associated with environmental remedi-22 ation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time 23 of the budget submission: Provided further, That the 24 Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report an-25 nually to the Committees on Appropriations of both

Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance ex penditures for each individual general or flag officer quar ters for the prior fiscal year.

4 SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Im-5 provement Account established by subsection (h) of sec-6 tion 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appro-7 priated and shall be available until expended for the pur-8 poses specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until 9 transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

10 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

11 SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropria-12 tions available in this Act to the Department of Defense 13 for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, 14 15 upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making 16 17 authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obliga-18 tions incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations 19 may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Cur-20 21 rency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged 22 with and to be available for the same time period and for 23 the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred. 24

21

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

2 SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this 3 4 title may be transferred among projects and activities 5 within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing 6 7 construction contained in Department of Defense Finan-8 cial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chap-9 ter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment 10 of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this
title may be obligated or expended for planning and design
and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

15 SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts
16 and in the amounts specified, to remain available until
17 September 30, 2027:

18 "Military Construction, Army", \$261,040,000;

19 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps",20 \$727,387,000;

21 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$591,700,000;

22 "Military Construction, Defense-Wide",23 \$151,000,000;

24 "Military Construction, Army National Guard",
25 \$54,743,000;

1	"Military	Constructio	n, Air	National	Guard",
2	\$9,200,000;				
3	"Military	Construc	tion,	Army	Reserve",
4	\$59,600,000;				
5	"Military	Construc	tion,	Navy	Reserve",
6	\$137,300,000;				
7	"Military	Constructio	on, Air	· Force	Reserve",
8	\$8,000,000;				
9	"Family	Housing	Cons	struction,	Army",
10	\$292,822,000; a	and			
11	"Family	Housing (	Construc	tion, Air	Force",
12	\$18,800,000:				

13 *Provided*, That such funds may only be obligated to carry 14 out construction and cost to complete projects identified 15 in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2023 submitted to Congress: Provided 16 *further*, That such projects are subject to authorization 17 prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out 18 construction: Provided further, That not later than 60 19 20 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall 21 22 submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both 23 Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section. 24

1 SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the "Department of Defense-Military Construction, Army", "De-2 3 partment of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and 4 Marine Corps", "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force", and "Department of Defense-Mili-5 tary Construction, Defense-Wide" accounts pursuant to 6 7 the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense 8 Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2023 in the 9 funding table in section 4601 of that Act shall be imme-10 diately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects. 11

12 SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, 13 funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obli-14 15 gated before October 1, 2024 for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 military construction projects for which 16 17 project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2023 by a National De-18 fense Authorization Act: *Provided*, That no amounts may 19 20 be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that 21 were designated by the Congress as an emergency require-22 ment pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget 23 or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. 24

1 SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term 2 "congressional defense committees" means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives 3 4 and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construc-5 tion and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military 6 7 Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on 8 Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

9 SEC. 128. For an additional amount for the accounts 10 and in the amounts specified for planning and design, un-11 specified minor construction, and authorized major con-12 struction projects, for construction improvements to De-13 partment of Defense laboratory facilities, to remain avail-14 able until September 30, 2027:

15 "Military Construction, Army", \$20,000,000;

16 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps",17 \$10,000,000; and

18 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$90,000,000:

19 Provided, That not later than 60 days after enactment of 20 this Act, the Secretary of the military department con-21 cerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Commit-22 tees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an ex-23 penditure plan for funds provided under this section: Pro-24 vided further, That the Secretary of the military depart-25 ment concerned may not obligate or expend any funds

prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of
 both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required
 by this section.

4 SEC. 129. For an additional amount for the accounts 5 and in the amounts specified for planning and design and 6 unspecified minor construction, for improving military in-7 stallation resilience, to remain available until September 8 30, 2027:

9 "Military Construction, Army", \$10,000,000;

10 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps",11 \$20,000,000; and

12 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$10,000,000:

13 *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department con-14 15 cerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an ex-16 17 penditure plan for funds provided under this section: Pro-18 vided further, That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds 19 prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of 20 21 both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required 22 by this section.

SEC. 130. For an additional amount for "Military
Construction, Air Force", \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for expenses incurred as

a result of natural disasters: *Provided*, That not later than
 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec retary of the Air Force, or his or her designee, shall sub mit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses
 of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under
 this section.

SEC. 131. For an additional amount for the accounts
and in the amounts specified to address cost increases
identified subsequent to the fiscal year 2023 budget request for authorized major construction projects included
in that request, to remain available until September 30,
2027:

13 "Military Construction, Army", \$40,000,000;

14 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps",15 \$65,000,000;

16 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$58,000,000;17 and

18 "Military Construction, Defense-Wide",19 \$51,000,000:

20 *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of 21 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military de-22 partment concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit 23 to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of 24 Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under 25 this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the 1 military department concerned may not obligate or expend

2 any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appro-

3 priations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure

4 plan required by this section.

#### TITLE II

## 2 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS 3 Veterans Benefits Administration 4 COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS 5

### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

6 For the payment of compensation benefits to or on 7 behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability ex-8 aminations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 9 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; 10 pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United 11 12 States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitle-13 ment Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certifi-14 15 cates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV 16 17 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 18 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sec-19 tions 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 20 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, 21 \$146,778,136,000, which shall become available on Octo-22 ber 1, 2023, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, 23 That not to exceed \$21,423,000 of the amount made avail-24 able for fiscal year 2024 under this heading shall be reimbursed to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Bene-25

1 fits Administration", and "Information Technology Sys-2 tems" for necessary expenses in implementing the provi-3 sions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States 4 Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided 5 as the "Compensation and Pensions" appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an 6 actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to 7 8 "Medical Care Collections Fund" to augment the funding 9 of individual medical facilities for nursing home care pro-10 vided to pensioners as authorized.

11

#### READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

12 For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation 13 benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 14 15 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$8,452,500,000, which 16 shall become available on October 1, 2023, to remain 17 available until expended: *Provided*, That expenses for re-18 habilitation program services and assistance which the 19 Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of 20section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than 21 under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that sub-22 section, shall be charged to this account.

# 23 VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service lifeinsurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled vet-

erans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as
 authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United
 States Code, \$121,126,000, which shall become available
 on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended.

# 5 VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

6 For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such 7 sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as 8 authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of 9 title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, 10 including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 11 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2023, 12 13 within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for spe-14 15 cially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out
the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$282,361,131.
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$7,171, as authorized
by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*,
That such costs, including the cost of modifying such
loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds
made available under this heading are available to sub-

sidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct
 loans not to exceed \$942,330.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to
carry out the direct loan program, \$445,698, which may
be paid to the appropriation for "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

7 NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM
 8 ACCOUNT

9 For administrative expenses to carry out the direct
10 loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37
11 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,400,000.

12 GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS

13

# ADMINISTRATION

14 For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans 15 Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement 16 17 of the General Services Administration for security guard 18 services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense 19 for the cost of overseas employee mail. 20 \$3,863,000,000: Provided, That expenses for services and 21 assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and 22 (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, 23 that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum ex-24 25 tent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and

maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum
 independence in daily living, shall be charged to this ac count: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available
 under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain
 available until September 30, 2024.

# 6 VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION 7 MEDICAL SERVICES

8 For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized 9 by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to 10 beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United 11 States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not 12 13 under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, 14 15 food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assist-16 17 ance and support services for caregivers as authorized by 18 section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and 19 20 Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public 21 Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), 22 monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 23 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized 24 by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and ad-25 ministrative expenses necessary to carry out sections

1 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hos-2 pital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 3 of title 38, United States Code; \$261,000,000, which shall 4 be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this 5 heading that become available on October 1, 2022; and, in addition, \$74,004,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall 6 7 become available on October 1, 2023, and shall remain 8 available until September 30, 2024: Provided, That, of the 9 amount made available on October 1, 2023, under this 10 heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025: Provided further, That, notwithstanding 11 12 any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Af-13 fairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabil-14 15 ities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, 16 That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for 17 18 the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: Provided further, 19 20That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-21 retary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing 22 of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administra-23 tion facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written 24 prescriptions based on requirements established by the 25 Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of

the program described in the previous proviso shall incur
 no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs:
 *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under
 this heading for medical supplies and equipment are avail able for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically
 for female veterans.

8 MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

9 For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to 10 individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United 11 States Code, non-Department facilities, at 12 \$4,300,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become avail-13 able 14 October 1, 2022:and, addition, on in 15 \$33,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2023, and shall remain available 16 17 until September 30, 2024: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2023, under this heading, 18 19 \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 20 2025.

21

#### MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activiU:\2023REPT\09REPT\Bill\MCVAFY2023.xml

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ties; and administrative and legal expenses of the Depart-1 2 ment for collecting and recovering amounts owed the De-3 partment as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, 4 United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recov-5 ery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$1,400,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under 6 this heading that become available on October 1, 2022; 7 8 and, in addition, \$12,300,000,000, plus reimbursements, 9 shall become available on October 1, 2023, and shall re-10 main available until September 30, 2024: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2023, under 11 12 this heading, \$350,000,000 shall remain available until 13 September 30, 2025.

14

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES

15 For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, 16 17 and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Ad-18 ministration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property ac-19 quisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of 20 21 any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the 22 Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural 23 activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, alter-24 ing, improving, or providing facilities in the several hos-25 pitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Depart-

ment, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by 1 the hire of temporary employees and purchase of mate-2 3 rials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; 4 \$1,500,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become avail-5 6 able October 1. 2022;and. on in addition. 7 \$8,800,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become avail-8 able on October 1, 2023, and shall remain available until 9 September 30, 2024: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2023, under this heading, 10 11 \$500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 12 2025.

13 MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

14 For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of 15 medical and prosthetic research and development as au-16 thorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, 17 \$916,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain avail-18 able until September 30, 2024: Provided, That the Sec-19 retary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient 20 amounts appropriated under this heading are available for 21 prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and 22 for toxic exposure research.

23 NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Ad-ministration for operations and maintenance, not other-

wise provided for, including uniforms or allowances there-1 2 for; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial oper-3 4 ations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alter-5 ation or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$430,000,000, 6 7 of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available 8 until September 30, 2024.

- 9 DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
- 10 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

11 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

12 For necessary operating expenses of the Department 13 of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including 14 administrative expenses in support of Department-wide 15 capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for 16 17 official reception and representation expenses; hire of pas-18 senger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General 19 Services Administration for security guard services, 20 \$425,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall re-21 main available until September 30, 2024: Provided, That 22 funds provided under this heading may be transferred to 23 "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration". 24

38

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

2 For necessary operating expenses of the Board of
3 Veterans Appeals, \$285,000,000, of which not to exceed
4 10 percent shall remain available until September 30,
5 2024.

6 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS
7 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

8 For necessary expenses for information technology 9 systems and telecommunications support, including devel-10 opmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital 11 12 asset acquisition of information technology systems, in-13 cluding management and related contractual costs of said 14 acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with 15 operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$5,782,000,000, plus reimbursements: Pro-16 17 vided, That \$1,494,230,000 shall be for pay and associ-18 ated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain 19 available until September 30, 2024: Provided further, That 20 \$4,145,678,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, 21 of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available 22 September 30, 2024: Provided further, That until 23 \$142,092,000 shall be for information technology systems 24 development, and shall remain available until September 25 30, 2024: *Provided further*, That amounts made available U:\2023REPT\09REPT\Bill\MCVAFY2023.xml

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for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, 1 2 and information technology systems development may be 3 transferred among the three subaccounts after the Sec-4 retary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees 5 on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Pro-6 7 vided further. That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development 8 9 may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be in-10 creased or decreased by more than \$3,000,000 of cost 11 12 prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appro-13 priations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period 14 15 of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for information tech-16 nology systems development shall be for the projects, and 17 18 in the amounts, specified under this heading in the explan-19 atory statement accompanying this Act.

## 20 VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, U:\2023REPT\09REPT\Bill\MCVAFY2023.xml

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and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 1 2 5 and 38, United States Code, \$1,759,000,000, to remain 3 available until September 30, 2024: Provided, That the 4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Commit-5 tees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and de-6 7 ployment implementation by facility, including anv 8 changes from the deployment plan or schedule: *Provided* 9 *further*, That the funds provided in this account shall only 10 be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be 11 administered by that Office: Provided further, That 25 12 percent of the funds made available under this heading 13 shall not be available until July 1, 2023, and are contingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (1) being up 14 15 to date on the quarterly reports on cost, performance metrics, and outcomes as required by the VA Electronic 16 Health Record Transparency Act of 2021 (Public Law 17 18 117–154), and (2) providing a report comparing current 19 estimated costs to the revised Life Cycle Cost Estimate 20and certifying and detailing any changes to the full deploy-21 ment schedule, no later than 30 days prior to that date 22 to the Committees on Appropriations.

23

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of InspectorGeneral, to include information technology, in carrying out

the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5) 1 2 U.S.C. App.), \$273,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2024. 4

## CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

5 For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the 6 7 jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans 8 Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 9 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States 10 Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, ar-11 chitectural and engineering services, construction manage-12 ment services, maintenance or guarantee period services 13 costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility 14 15 and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more 16 17 than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 18 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were 19 made available in a previous major project appropriation, 20 \$1,447,890,000, of which \$731,722,000 shall remain 21 available until September 30, 2027, and of which 22 \$716,168,000 shall remain available until expended, of 23 which \$1,500,000 shall be available for seismic improve-24 ment projects and seismic program management activities, including for projects that would otherwise be funded by 25

the Construction, Minor Projects, Medical Facilities or 1 National Cemetery Administration accounts: Provided, 2 That except for advance planning activities, including 3 4 needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital 5 investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and manage-6 7 ment activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design 8 for major medical facility projects and major medical facil-9 ity leases and investment strategy studies funded through 10 the advance planning fund and the planning and design 11 activities funded through the design fund, staffing ex-12 penses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and 13 maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the 14 15 funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through 16 17 the budgetary process or that has not been approved by 18 the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the 19 explanatory statement accompanying such Act and pre-20 sented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided* 21 *further*, That such sums as may be necessary shall be 22 available to reimburse the "General Administration" ac-23 count for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office 24 of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services 25

provided, including minor construction and leasing serv-1 ices: Provided further, That funds made available under 2 this heading for fiscal year 2023, for each approved 3 4 project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a con-5 struction documents contract by September 30, 2023; and 6 (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by Sep-7 tember 30, 2024: Provided further. That the Secretary of 8 Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees 9 on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written 10 report on any approved major construction project for 11 which obligations are not incurred within the time limita-12 tions established above: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, 13 14 United States Code, amounts made available under this 15 heading for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities shall be available for the com-16 pletion of both new and existing seismic projects of the 17 Department. 18

## 19 CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period

services costs associated with equipment guarantees pro-1 2 vided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite 3 utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and 4 site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in 5 sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the 6 7 estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the 8 amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, 9 United States Code, \$626,110,000, of which 10 \$563,499,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which \$62,611,000 shall remain available 11 12 until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, Minor Projects" appropriations 13 which are hereby made available for any project where the 14 15 estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available 16 under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the 17 18 nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use 19 of the Department which are necessary because of loss or 20damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; 21 and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to 22 minimize further loss by such causes.

1 GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE

2

#### FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended.

10 GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended.

16

#### Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund

17 For investment in the delivery of veterans health care 18 associated with exposure to environmental hazards, the ex-19 penses incident to the delivery of veterans' health care and 20 benefits associated with exposure to environmental haz-21 ards, and medical and other research relating to exposure 22 to environmental hazards, as authorized by section 324 23 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That not 24 25 later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall 1 2 submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both 3 Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds pro-4 vided under this heading for fiscal year 2023: Provided 5 *further*, That the Secretary may not obligate, expend, or transfer any funds prior to approval by the Committees 6 7 on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the ex-8 penditure plan required by this section or absent a re-9 sponse, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

10 Administrative Provisions

11 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

12 SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2023 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", 13 14 and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" may be trans-15 ferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appro-16 priations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from 17 18 the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Con-19 gress the authority to make the transfer and such Com-20 mittees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period 21 of 30 days has elapsed.

22 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023, in this or
any other Act, under the "Medical Services", "Medical

Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", 1 2 and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred 3 among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and 4 5 "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account 6 7 in this or any other Act may take place subject to notifica-8 tion from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Com-9 mittees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of 10 the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Med-11 ical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compli-12 13 ance" accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place 14 15 only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority 16 to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided* 17 *further*, That any transfers to or from the "Medical Facili-18 ties" account may take place only after the Secretary re-19 quests from the Committees on Appropriations of both 20 21 Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer 22 and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for
salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land
 or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as author ized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United
 4 States Code.

5 SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the 6 appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects", and 7 "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the 8 purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any 9 new hospital or home.

10 SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be 11 available for hospitalization or examination of any persons 12 (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or ex-13 amination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sec-14 15 tions 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency 16 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reim-17 18 bursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such 19 rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. 20

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for
"Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits",
and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding

prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year
 2022.

3 SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall 4 be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding 5 prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 6 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States 7 Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund 8 accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation 9 and Pensions".

#### 10 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

11 SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2023, the Secretary of Veterans 12 Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance 13 Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, 14 15 the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United 16 17 States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "Gen-18 19 eral Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administra-20 tion" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for 21 the cost of administration of the insurance programs fi-22 nanced through those accounts: Provided, That reimburse-23 ment shall be made only from the surplus earnings accu-24 mulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2023 that are available for dividends in that program after 25

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claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves 1 have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of 2 3 administration of such an insurance program exceeds the 4 amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, 5 reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary 6 7 shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 8 2023 which is properly allocable to the provision of each 9 such insurance program and to the provision of any total 10 disability income insurance included in that insurance pro-11 gram.

12 SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use 13 lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses in-14 curred by that account during a prior fiscal year for pro-15 viding enhanced-use lease services shall be available until 16 expended.

17 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

18 SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for 19 salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be 20available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Manage-21 ment, Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Employment 22 Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alter-23 native Dispute Resolution function within the Office of 24 Human Resources and Administration for all services pro-25 vided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to

exceed \$86,481,000 for the Office of Resolution Manage-1 ment, Diversity and Inclusion, \$6,812,000 for the Office 2 3 of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, 4 and \$4,576,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution 5 function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: *Provided*, That payments may be made in 6 7 advance for services to be furnished based on estimated 8 costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be 9 credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office 10 that provided the service. 11

12 SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans 13 Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under 14 15 chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of 16 17 such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Sec-18 retary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary 19 may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: Pro-20 21 vided, That the Secretary may recover, in the same man-22 ner as any other debt due the United States, the reason-23 able charges for such care or services from any person who 24 does not make such disclosure as required: Provided fur-25 ther, That any amounts so recovered for care or services

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provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the
 Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are re ceived.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

5 SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leas-6 7 ing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into 8 the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, 9 Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, 10 11 and improvements of any medical facility under the juris-12 diction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Af-13 fairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Con-14 15 struction, Minor Projects".

16 SEC. 213. Amounts made available under "Medical
17 Services" are available—

18 (1) for furnishing recreational facilities, sup-19 plies, and equipment; and

20 (2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and
21 other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for
22 beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

23 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the
Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A

of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the 1 "Medical Services" and "Medical Community Care" ac-2 3 counts to remain available until expended for the purposes 4 of these accounts.

5 SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health 6 7 Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and 8 Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native 9 Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to pro-10 vide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall re-11 12 quire participating veterans and facilities to comply with 13 all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those 14 15 lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough. 16 17

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

18 SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the 19 Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pur-20suant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may 21 be transferred to the "Construction, Major Projects" and 22 "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts, to remain avail-23 able until expended for the purposes of these accounts. 24 SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of 25 each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall

submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both 1 2 Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the 3 Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: 4 *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include 5 the direction contained in the paragraph entitled "Quarterly reporting", under the heading "General Administra-6 7 tion" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying 8 Public Law 114–223.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

10 SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Sup-11 port and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "General Op-12 13 erating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", "Board of Veterans Appeals", "General Administration", 14 15 and "National Cemetery Administration" accounts for fiscal year 2023 may be transferred to or from the "Informa-16 tion Technology Systems" account: Provided, That such 17 18 transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggre-19 gate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the "Information Technology Systems" account: 20 21 *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, 22 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the 23 Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 24 the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued. 25

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#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

2 SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the De-3 partment of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023 for 4 "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "Con-5 struction, Minor Projects", and "Information Technology 6 7 Systems", up to \$330,140,000, plus reimbursements, may 8 be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—De-9 partment of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstra-10 tion Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 11 12 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation 13 of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hun-14 15 ter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, 16 That additional funds may be transferred from accounts 17 18 designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility 19 20Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Sec-21 retary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appro-22 priations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, 23 That section 220 of title II of division J of Public Law 24 117–103 is repealed.

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#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

2 SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the De-3 partment of Veterans Affairs which become available on 4 October 1, 2023, for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and 5 6 "Medical Facilities", up to \$314,825,000, plus reimburse-7 ments, may be transferred to the Joint Department of De-8 fense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility 9 Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the 10 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 11 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used 12 for operation of the facilities designated as combined Fed-13 eral medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for 14 15 Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from 16 17 accounts designated in this section to the Joint Depart-18 ment of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notifica-19 20 tion by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Commit-21 tees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

# 22 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the
Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A
of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided

1 at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facili-2 ties as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter 3 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 4 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be avail-5 able: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of De-6 fense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility 7 Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the 8 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 9 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for oper-10 ations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Dun-11 12 can Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 13 Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided. That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the 14 15 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts trans-16 17 ferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department 18 of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund 19 shall remain available until expended.

20 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for
"Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical
Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", a
minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the
DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as au-

thorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States 1 2 Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose 3 authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code. SEC. 223. None of the funds available to the Depart-4 5 ment of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Vet-6 7 erans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for 8 diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

9 SEC. 224. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall no-10 tify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project 11 12 that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the pro-13 grammed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided. That such notification shall occur within 14 days 14 15 of a contract identifying the programmed amount: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the Commit-16 17 tees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall 18 describe the anticipated use of such savings. 19

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available for "Construction, Major Projects" may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on
 Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

3 SEC. 226. Not later than 30 days after the end of 4 each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall 5 submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing perform-6 7 ance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Ad-8 ministration Regional Office: *Provided*, That, at a min-9 imum, the report shall include the direction contained in 10 the section entitled "Disability claims backlog", under the heading "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits 11 Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accom-12 13 panying Public Law 114–223: Provided further, That the report shall also include information on the number of ap-14 15 peals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly 16 17 basis.

18 SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall 19 provide written notification to the Committees on Appro-20 priations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to or-21 ganizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or 22 more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of 23 the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shallprovide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appro-

priations of both Houses of Congress notification of any
 single national outreach and awareness marketing cam paign in which obligations exceed \$1,000,000.

### 4 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

5 SEC. 229. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address 6 7 needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may trans-8 fer to the "Medical Services" account any discretionary 9 appropriations made available for fiscal year 2023 in this title (except appropriations made to the "General Oper-10 ating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" ac-11 12 count) or any discretionary unobligated balances within 13 the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2023, that were provided in ad-14 15 vance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Man-16 17 agement and Budget: Provided further, That the transfer 18 authority provided in this section is in addition to any 19 other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, 20That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that 21 were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement 22 pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the 23 Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 24 1985: Provided further, That such authority to transfer 25 may not be used unless for higher priority items, based U:\2023REPT\09REPT\Bill\MCVAFY2023.xml

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on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for 1 which originally appropriated and in no case where the 2 3 item for which funds are requested has been denied by 4 Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that 5 all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back 6 7 to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: Provided further, 8 9 That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of 10 Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority 11 to make the transfer and receive approval of that request. 12 13 (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

14 SEC. 230. Amounts made available for the Depart-15 ment of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023, under the "Board of Veterans Appeals" and the "General Operating 16 17 Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That 18 19 before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Vet-20 erans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appro-21 priations of both Houses of Congress the authority to 22 make the transfer and receive approval of that request. 23 SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not 24 reprogram funds among major construction projects or 25 programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by
 the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Con gress.

4 SEC. 232. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
5 ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section
6 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

7 (1) provides to individuals who contact the hot8 line immediate assistance from a trained profes9 sional; and

10 (2) adheres to all requirements of the American11 Association of Suicidology.

12 (b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act 13 may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs 14 15 from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, 16 17 at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to 18 such a position relating to the hotline specified in sub-19 section (a).

20 (2) In this subsection—

(A) the term "civil service" has the meaning
given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United
States Code; and

24 (B) the term "Executive action" includes—

(i) any Executive order, Presidential
 memorandum, or other action by the President;
 and

4 (ii) any agency policy, order, or other di5 rective.

6 (c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall con7 duct a study on the effectiveness of the hotline specified
8 in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on
9 January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide
10 data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph(1) shall—

(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who
receive follow up services from the hotline or mental
health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;

(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not
continue receiving, mental health care who commit
suicide; and

(C) determine the number of veterans described
in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.
SEC. 233. Effective during the period beginning on
October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2024, none

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of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans 1 2 Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the "Veterans Health Adminis-3 4 tration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration's Screening for 5 Breast Cancer Guidance" published on May 10, 2017, as 6 7 issued by the Veterans Health Administration National 8 Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

9 SEC. 234. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision 10 of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made avail-11 able to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the "Med-12 ical Services" account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran
or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

16 (2) adoption reimbursement to a covered vet-17 eran.

18 (b) In this section:

19 (1) The term "service-connected" has the
20 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38,
21 United States Code.

(2) The term "covered veteran" means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title
38, United States Code, who has a service-connected

disability that results in the inability of the veteran
 to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

3 The term "assisted reproductive tech-(3)nology" means benefits relating to reproductive as-4 5 sistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces 6 who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty 7 pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10. United 8 States Code, as described in the memorandum on 9 the subject of "Policy for Assisted Reproductive 10 Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/ 11 Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service 12 Members" issued by the Assistant Secretary of De-13 fense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the 14 guidance issued to implement such policy, including 15 any limitations on the amount of such benefits avail-16 able to such a member except that—

17 (A) the time periods regarding embryo
18 cryopreservation and storage set forth in part
19 III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum
20 shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo
cryopreservation and storage without limitation
on the duration of such cryopreservation and
storage.

(4) The term "adoption reimbursement" means 1 2 reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for 3 an adoption that is finalized after the date of the en-4 actment of this Act under the same terms as apply 5 under the adoption reimbursement program of the 6 Department of Defense, as authorized in Depart-7 ment of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the 8 reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in 9 such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the
requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division
H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public
Law 115–141).

15 SEC. 235. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the 16 17 Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner 18 that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transpor-19 tation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the 20 Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent 21 Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 22 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, 23 United States Code.

24 SEC. 236. Section 842 of Public Law 109–115 shall 25 not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the

Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to con tractor performance by a business concern that is at least
 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined
 in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one
 or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in sec tion 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

8 SEC. 237. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), 9 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the 10 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall dis-11 continue using Social Security account numbers to identify 12 individuals in all information systems of the Department 13 of Veterans Affairs as follows:

(1) For all veterans submitting to the Secretary
of Veterans Affairs new claims for benefits under
laws administered by the Secretary, not later than
March 23, 2023.

18 (2) For all individuals not described in para-19 graph (1), not later than March 23, 2026.

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use a Social Security account number to identify an individual in
an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is required
to obtain information the Secretary requires from an in-

formation system that is not under the jurisdiction of the
 Secretary.

3 (c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall super4 sede section 238 of Public Law 116–94.

5 SEC. 238. For funds provided to the Department of
6 Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2023 and 2024
7 for "Medical Services", section 239 of division A of Public
8 Law 114–223 shall apply.

9 SEC. 239. None of the funds appropriated in this or 10 prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to 11 the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to trans-12 fer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Com-13 pensation Fund to any other account within the Depart-14 ment of Veterans Affairs.

15 SEC. 240. Of the funds provided to the Department 16 of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2023 and fiscal 17 year 2024 for "Medical Services", funds may be used in 18 each year to carry out and expand the child care program 19 authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111–163, not-20 withstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 241. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speak-

ing to members of Congress or their staff on any topic
 not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law
 or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the
 interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign af fairs.

6 SEC. 242. For funds provided to the Department of
7 Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2023 and 2024,
8 section 258 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall
9 apply.

10 SEC. 243. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny 11 12 an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access 13 to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector Gen-14 15 eral has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede the ac-16 17 cess of the Inspector General to such records, documents, 18 or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector 19 20 General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section
shall provide its Inspector General access to all records,
documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliancewith statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the in-

formation provided by the establishment over which that
 Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector
 General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

4 (d) Each Inspector General covered by this section
5 shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the
6 Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
7 of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure
8 by any department or agency covered by this section to
9 comply with this requirement.

10 SEC. 244. None of the funds made available in this 11 Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait 12 times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of 13 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

14 SEC. 245. None of the funds appropriated or other-15 wise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2023 to convert 16 17 any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2022 to a general purpose funded program unless 18 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notifica-19 20 tion of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropria-21 tions of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior 22 to any such action and an approval is issued by the Com-23 mittees.

24 SEC. 246. For funds provided to the Department of 25 Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2023 and 2024, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall
 apply.

3 SEC. 247. (a) None of the funds appropriated or oth-4 erwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct 5 research commencing on or after October 1, 2019, that 6 uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the 7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research spe-8 cifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

9 (b)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve
10 the conduct of research commencing on or after October
11 1, 2019, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if
12 the Secretary determines that—

13 (A) the scientific objectives of the research can
14 only be met by using such canines, felines, or non15 human primates;

(B) such scientific objectives are directly related
to an illness or injury that is combat-related; and

(C) the research is consistent with the revised
Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including
any subsequent revisions to such document.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authorityunder this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursu-ant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the

commencement of such research, the Secretary shall sub-1 2 mit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate 3 and House of Representatives a report describing— 4 (1) the nature of the research to be conducted 5 using canines, felines, or non-human primates; 6 (2) the date on which the Secretary approved 7 the research: 8 (3) the justification for the determination of the 9 Secretary that the scientific objectives of such re-10 search could only be met using canines, felines, or 11 non-human primates; (4) the frequency and duration of such re-12 13 search: and 14 (5) the protocols in place to ensure the neces-15 sity, safety, and efficacy of the research. 16 (d) Not later than 180 days after the date of the en-17 actment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describ-18 19 ing— 20 (1) any research being conducted by the De-21 partment of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, 22 or non-human primates as of the date of the sub-

23 mittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such re search was conducted using canines, felines, or non human primates;

4 (3) the justification for using canines, felines,
5 or non-human primates to conduct such research;
6 and

7 (4) the protocols in place to ensure the neces-8 sity, safety, and efficacy of such research.

9 (e) The Department shall implement a plan under 10 which the Secretary will eliminate or reduce the research 11 conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates 12 by not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of 13 Public Law 116–94.

14 SEC. 248. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may 15 use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in 16 this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time 17 employment equivalents within any program of rehabilita-18 tion conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States 19 Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time em-20 ployment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted
under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio
 for each such program; and

3 (2) recommendations for such action as the
4 Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran5 to-staff ratio for each such program.

6 SEC. 249. Amounts made available for the "Veterans 7 Health Administration, Medical Community Care" ac-8 count in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2023 and 9 2024 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be 10 payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by 11 section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Account-12 ability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 250. Obligations and expenditures applicable to
the "Medical Services" account in fiscal years 2017
through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by
section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain
in the "Medical Community Care" account for such fiscal
years.

19 SEC. 251. Of the amounts made available for the De-20 partment of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023, in this 21 or any other Act, under the "Veterans Health Administra-22 tion—Medical Services", "Veterans Health Administra-23 tion—Medical Community Care", "Veterans Health Ad-24 ministration—Medical Support and Compliance", and 25 "Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities" ac-

counts, \$911,119,000 shall be made available for gender specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for
 women veterans.

4

### (RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

5 SEC. 252. (a) Any remaining unobligated balances in 6 the "Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund" estab-7 lished in section 243 of division J of Public Law 114– 8 113, are hereby rescinded immediately upon enactment of 9 this Act.

10 (b) An amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded pursuant to subsection 11 12 (a) is hereby appropriated, to remain available until ex-13 pended, for facilities infrastructure improvements, including non-recurring maintenance, at existing hospitals and 14 15 clinics of the Veterans Health Administration, and infor-16 mation technology improvements systems and 17 sustainment, in addition to such other funds as may be 18 available for such purposes, as follows:

(1) 85 percent of the additional new budget authority shall be made available for an additional
amount for "Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects"; and

(2) 15 percent of the additional new budget au-thority shall be made available for an additional

amount for "Departmental Administration—Con struction, Minor Projects":

3 Provided, That prior to obligation of any of the funds pro4 vided in this subsection, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 must provide a plan for the execution of the funds appro6 priated in this subsection to the Committees on Appropria7 tions of both Houses of Congress and such Committees
8 issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30
9 days has elapsed.

10 SEC. 253. Not later than 30 days after the end of 11 each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall 12 submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both 13 Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the status of the "Veterans Medical Care and Health Fund", estab-14 15 lished to execute section 8002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2): Provided, That, 16 17 at a minimum, the report shall include an update on obli-18 gations by program, project or activity and a plan for ex-19 pending the remaining funds: *Provided further*, That the 20 Secretary of Veterans Affairs must submit notification of 21 any plans to reallocate funds from the current apportion-22 ment categories of "Medical Services", "Medical Support 23 and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "Medical Commu-24 nity Care", or "Medical and Prosthetic Research", includ-25 ing the amount and purpose of each reallocation to the

Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress
 and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a re sponse, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

4 SEC. 254. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary 5 and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 6 7 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018 for purposes of carrying 8 out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Af-9 fairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States 10 Code, that are available for obligation pursuant to section 11 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain 12 available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of 13 such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Af-14 15 fairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation. 16

17

#### (RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

18 SEC. 255. Of the unobligated balances available to 19 the Department of Veterans Affairs from prior appropria-20 tions Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from 21 the following accounts in the amounts specified:

22 "Asset and Infrastructure Review", \$5,000,000;23 and

24 "Departmental Administration—Veterans Elec25 tronic Health Record", \$82,174,000:

Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from
 amounts that were designated by the Congress as an
 emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolu tion on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emer gency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

6 SEC. 256. None of the funds in this or any other Act 7 may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs hos-8 pitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental 9 assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities as part 10 of a planned realignment of services until the Secretary 11 12 provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both 13 Houses of Congress a report including an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact ac-14 15 cess to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs 16 to access a Department medical facility and availability 17 of local specialty and primary care. 18

1	TITLE III
2	RELATED AGENCIES
3	American Battle Monuments Commission
4	SALARIES AND EXPENSES
5	For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for,
6	of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including
7	the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign coun-
8	tries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of
9	national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United
10	States and its territories and possessions; rent of office
11	and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-
12	one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor
13	vehicles; not to exceed \$15,000 for official reception and
14	representation expenses; and insurance of official motor
15	vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such
16	countries, \$86,800,000, to remain available until ex-
17	pended.

18 FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for,
of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such
sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title
36, United States Code.

	80
1	United States Court of Appeals for Veterans
2	CLAIMS
3	SALARIES AND EXPENSES
4	For necessary expenses for the operation of the
5	United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as
6	authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38,
7	United States Code, \$46,900,000: Provided, That
8	\$3,385,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing
9	financial assistance as described and in accordance with
10	the process and reporting procedures set forth under this
11	heading in Public Law 102–229.
12	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL
13	CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY
14	SALARIES AND EXPENSES
15	For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation,
16	and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Sol-
17	diers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including
18	the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for re-
19	placement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed
20	\$2,000 for official reception and representation expenses,
21	93,400,000, of which not to exceed $15,000,000$ shall re-
22	main available until September 30, 2025. In addition,
23	such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance,

24 repairs and replacement, to be derived from the "Lease

of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense
 Agencies" account.

3

#### CONSTRUCTION

4 For necessary expenses for planning and design and 5 construction at Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, \$62,500,000, to 6 7 remain available until expended, of which \$2,500,000 shall 8 be for study, planning and design and architect and engi-9 neering services for Memorial Avenue improvements 10 project at Arlington National Cemetery; and \$60,000,000 shall be for planning and design and construction associ-11 ated with the Southern Expansion project. 12

13 Armed Forces Retirement Home

14

#### TRUST FUND

15 For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces 16 Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, 17 18 and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mis-19 sissippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$75,360,000, to re-2021 main available until September 30, 2024, of which \$7,300,000 shall remain available until expended for con-22 23 struction and renovation of the physical plants at the 24 Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of 25 Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—

Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided*, That of the amounts made
 available under this heading from funds available in the
 Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund,
 \$25,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the
 Treasury to the Trust Fund.

6 MAJOR CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for necessary expenses re8 lated to design, planning, and construction for renovation
9 of the Sheridan Building at the Armed Forces Retirement
10 Home—Washington, \$77,000,000, to remain available
11 until expended, shall be paid from the general fund of the
12 Treasury to the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust
13 Fund.

## 14 Administrative Provision

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account
established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and
shall be available until expended to support activities at
the Army National Military Cemeteries.

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## 83

### TITLE IV

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

3 SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in
4 this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the
5 current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

6 SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this 7 Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, 8 when it is made known to the Federal entity or official 9 to which the funds are made available that the program, 10 project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal 11 law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private 12 property rights, or unfunded mandates.

13 SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under 14 this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing 15 statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of 16 "E-Commerce" technologies and procedures in the con-17 duct of their business practices and public service activi-18 ties.

19 SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and no-20 tifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the 21 Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Af-22 fairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appro-23 priations of the House of Representatives and the Sub-24 committee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs,

and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations
 of the Senate.

3 SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this 4 Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or in-5 strumentality of the United States Government except 6 pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority pro-7 vided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

8 SEC. 406. (a) Any agency receiving funds made avail-9 able in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), 10 post on the public Web site of that agency any report re-11 quired to be submitted by the Congress in this or any 12 other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agen-13 cy that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—
(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

17 (2) the report contains confidential or propri-18 etary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall
do so only after such report has been made available to
the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for
no less than 45 days.

SEC. 407. (a) None of the funds made available inthis Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer

network unless such network blocks the viewing,
 downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

3 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of 4 funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law 5 enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities. 6 7 SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch 8 9 to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301– 10

11 10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

12 SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this 13 Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or serv-14 ices, including construction services, where the contractor 15 has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available by this
Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of
title 10, United States Code.

19 This Act may be cited as the "Military Construction,
20 Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations
21 Act, 2023".