

HR 3936

Veterans Health Programs Improvement Act of 2004

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 11, 2004

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 108-422.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 108-422. (Nov 30, 2004)

Law: 108-422 (Enacted Nov 30, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/3936>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Evans, Lane [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Mar 11, 2004
Rep. Skelton, Ike [D-MO-4]	D · MO		Mar 11, 2004
Rep. Michaud, Michael H. [D-ME-2]	D · ME		Mar 17, 2004
Rep. Brown, Corrine [D-FL-3]	D · FL		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Rodriguez, Ciro D. [D-TX-28]	D · TX		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT-At Large]	I · VT		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Strickland, Ted [D-OH-6]	D · OH		Apr 20, 2004
Rep. Renzi, Rick [R-AZ-1]	R · AZ		Apr 27, 2004
Rep. Tierney, John F. [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Apr 27, 2004
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-29]	D · CA		May 4, 2004
Rep. Bradley, Jeb [R-NH-1]	R · NH		May 5, 2004
Rep. Bilirakis, Michael [R-FL-9]	R · FL		May 19, 2004
Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [D-WV-3]	D · WV		Jun 1, 2004
Rep. Harris, Katherine [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Jun 8, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Discharged From	Jun 25, 2004
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	May 13, 2004
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Oct 10, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 S 2485	Related document	Oct 9, 2004: See also H.R. 3936.

Department of Veterans Affairs Real Property and Facilities Management Improvement Act of 2004 - **Title I: Real Property and Facilities Matters - Subtitle A: Real Property and Facilities Administration** - (Sec. 101) Amends Federal veterans' provisions to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to dispose of excess real property of the Department of Veterans Affairs by: (1) transfer to or exchange with another Federal department or agency; or (2) conveyance to or exchange with a State or political subdivision, Indian tribe, public entity, or private person or entity (thereby eliminating certain other transfer requirements). Sets forth disposal procedures. Requires: (1) disposal proceeds to be deposited into the Capital Asset Fund (established in this section); and (2) the Secretary to include in annual budget justification documents a report on each such disposal. Provides authorized Fund uses. Authorizes FY 2005 appropriations to the Fund.

(Sec. 102) Modifies business plan-based determinations relating to the Secretary's enhanced-use lease authority by: (1) requiring consideration of the needs of the Veterans Benefits Administration or the National Cemetery Administration; and (2) allowing the Department to receive facilities, space, or services in consideration for such a lease regardless of whether the facilities, space, or services are on the leased property.

(Sec. 103) Authorizes funds in a Department construction or capital account that are available for a construction or non-recurring maintenance project to be used for the construction or relocation of a surface parking lot incidental to such project.

(Sec. 104) Prohibits the Secretary from implementing a mission change for a medical facility (with an exception) until 90 days after the Secretary submits to the congressional veterans' committees written notice of the mission change.

(Sec. 105) Terminates the Nursing Home Revolving Fund. Transfers unobligated balances to the Capital Asset Fund.

(Sec. 106) Removes congressional notice-and-wait limits on the use of Advanced Planning Fund amounts for major medical facility projects when funds for such projects have already been authorized by law.

(Sec. 107) Authorizes the Secretary to lease any undeveloped land or unused or underutilized buildings or lots of the National Cemetery Administration. Allows a lease term of up to ten years. Establishes in the Treasury the National Cemetery Administration Facilities Operation Fund to cover costs incurred by such Administration in operating and maintaining its property.

Subtitle B: Transfers of Property - (Sec. 111) Directs the Administrator of General Services to transfer to the Secretary specified General Services Administration property north of the Army Reserve facility in Boise, Idaho, for purposes relating to the delivery of benefits to veterans.

Subtitle C: Designation of Facilities - (Sec. 121) Designates the Department medical center in the Bronx, New York, as the James J. Peters Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

(Sec. 122) Designates the memorial to former prisoners of war and members of the Armed Forces missing in action that is under construction at Riverside National Cemetery, California, as the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Memorial.

Subtitle D: Other Matters - (Sec. 131) Requires the Secretary, upon determining to convey, lease, or dispose of all or part of the Louisville Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Kentucky, to engage in negotiations for such

conveyance, lease, or disposal solely with the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Limits the duration of such requirement to one year after the commencement of such negotiations. Requires such negotiations to address the utilization of such Center for the primary purpose of the provision of services for veterans and related activities.

Title II: Benefits Matters - (Sec. 201) Exempts veterans receiving hospice care from certain Department copayment requirements.

(Sec. 202) Makes permanent (currently terminates at the end of 2004) the Department's authority to provide counseling and treatment to veterans suffering from an incident of sexual trauma that occurred during service. Expands such authority to include members of the reserves suffering from an incident that occurred during training.

(Sec. 203) States that Department per diem payments to States for the care of veterans in State nursing homes shall not be considered a liability of a third party or otherwise utilized to offset or reduce any other payment made to assist veterans.

(Sec. 204) Authorizes the Secretary to provide up to 14 days of care following birth for the newborn child of a woman veteran receiving maternity care furnished by the Department if the child was delivered in a Department facility or a Department-contracted facility.

(Sec. 205) Directs the Secretary, subject to the appropriation of funds, to establish and operate at least one and up to three centers for research, education, and clinical activities on blast injuries. Outlines requirements for proposals submitted for the designation of a center. Authorizes appropriations. Requires reports during 2006 through 2008 from the Secretary to the veterans' committees on center status and activities.

(Sec. 206) Extends through: (1) 2009 required reports from the Special Medical Advisory Group on care and treatment provided to disabled veterans; and (2) 2005 a pilot program to evaluate three different models of providing long-term care to veterans.

(Sec. 207) Requires an annual report from the Secretary to the veterans' committees on the waiting times of veterans for appointments for care and services from the Department.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 30, 2004:** Signed by President.
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- **Nov 30, 2004:** Became Public Law No: 108-422.
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- **Nov 20, 2004:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 20, 2004:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** Mr. Smith (NJ) moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments. (consideration: CR H9772-9787; text as House agreed to Senate amendments: CR H9772-9777)
- **Nov 17, 2004:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 3936.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Nov 17, 2004:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 16, 2004:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 9, 2004:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Oct 9, 2004:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Oct 9, 2004:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S11007)
- **Oct 9, 2004:** Senate struck all after the Enacting Clause and substituted the language of S. 2485 amended.
- **Oct 9, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate in lieu of S. 2485 with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent.
- **Oct 9, 2004:** Passed Senate in lieu of S. 2485 with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent.
- **Oct 9, 2004:** See also S. 2485.
- **Sep 7, 2004:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Jul 21, 2004:** Received in the Senate.
- **Jul 20, 2004:** Mr. Smith (NJ) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jul 20, 2004:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6076-6078)
- **Jul 20, 2004:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 3936.
- **Jul 20, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H6076-6077)
- **Jul 20, 2004:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H6076-6077)
- **Jul 20, 2004:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jun 25, 2004:** Reported by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 108-574, Part I.
- **Jun 25, 2004:** Reported by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 108-574, Part I.
- **Jun 25, 2004:** House Committee on Armed Services Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than June 25, 2004.
- **Jun 25, 2004:** Committee on Armed Services discharged.
- **Jun 25, 2004:** Committee on Armed Services discharged.
- **Jun 25, 2004:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 336.
- **May 19, 2004:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 19, 2004:** Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.
- **May 13, 2004:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 13, 2004:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
- **Apr 29, 2004:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Apr 13, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Benefits.
- **Mar 11, 2004:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 11, 2004:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 11, 2004:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E355)
- **Mar 11, 2004:** Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for

a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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