

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 593

To extend the authorization for the construction of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado, and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to manage such construction.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. BUCK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To extend the authorization for the construction of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado, and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to manage such construction.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Aurora VA Hospital  
5 Financing and Construction Reform Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MED-**  
2 **ICAL FACILITY PROJECT TO REPLACE DE-**  
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL**  
4 **CENTER IN DENVER, COLORADO.**

5 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the  
6 major medical facility project to replace the Department  
7 of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, Colorado,  
8 in an amount not to exceed a total of \$1,100,000,000.

9 **SEC. 3. MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
10 **FAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN AURORA, COLO-**  
11 **RADO.**

12 (a) TRANSFER OF CONSTRUCTION AGENT RESPON-  
13 SIBILITIES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the  
14 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
15 shall enter into an agreement under section 1535 of title  
16 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as the  
17 “Economy Act”), with the Army Corps of Engineers to  
18 obtain, on a reimbursable basis, the services of the Army  
19 Corps of Engineers for construction agent responsibilities  
20 associated with the Aurora medical facility project until  
21 the date on which the project is completed, as defined in  
22 the agreement. Notwithstanding such section 1535, funds  
23 to implement this work may be obligated at the time the  
24 reimbursable order is accepted by the Army Corps of En-  
25 gineers.

26 (b) DUTIES.—

1           (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Under the agreement  
2 entered into under subsection (a), the Army Corps  
3 of Engineers shall have the authority to perform the  
4 project, design, contract and construction manage-  
5 ment necessary to complete the remaining work at  
6 the Aurora medical facility project. Such authority  
7 shall include entering into new contracts in accord-  
8 ance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation to ful-  
9 fill construction agent responsibilities associated  
10 with such project. A determination will be made if  
11 entering into a new contract agreement with the cur-  
12 rent prime contractor is consistent with the Federal  
13 Acquisition Regulation and in the best interests of  
14 the Government.

15           (2) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—In accordance  
16 with subsection (d)(1), the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
17 fairs shall provide the Army Corps of Engineers with  
18 the information needed to ensure that the Army  
19 Corps of Engineers understands the requirements  
20 for the successful operation of the Aurora medical  
21 facility project.

22           (c) PLANS AND REPORTS.—

23           (1) COMPLETION PLANS.—Not later than 90  
24 days after entering into the agreement under sub-  
25 section (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, based

1 upon the advice of the Army Corps of Engineers  
2 provided under the agreement entered into under  
3 subsection (a), shall submit to the Committees on  
4 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
5 and the Senate detailed plans, including estimated  
6 costs, to complete construction of the Aurora med-  
7 ical facility project.

8 (2) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 180  
9 days after entering into the agreement under sub-  
10 section (a), and each 180-day period thereafter until  
11 the date on which the Aurora medical facility project  
12 is completed, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
13 based on the advice of the Army Corps of Engineers  
14 provided under the agreement entered into under  
15 subsection (a), shall submit to the Committees on  
16 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
17 and Senate a report detailing the progress on the  
18 Aurora medical facility project.

19 (d) COOPERATION.—

20 (1) INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Veterans  
21 Affairs shall provide the Army Corps of Engineers  
22 with any documents or information which the Army  
23 Corps of Engineers determines necessary to carry  
24 out subsections (a) and (b).

1           (2) ASSISTANCE.—Upon request by the Army  
2           Corps of Engineers, the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
3           fairs shall provide to the Army Corps of Engineers  
4           any assistance that the Army Corps of Engineers de-  
5           termines necessary to carry out subsections (a) and  
6           (b). Such assistance shall be provided at no cost to  
7           the Army Corps of Engineers.

8           (e) AURORA MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT DE-  
9           FINED.—In this section, the term “Aurora medical facility  
10          project” means the major medical facility project specified  
11          in section 2 to replace the Department of Veterans Affairs  
12          Medical Center in Denver, Colorado.

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