

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Senate Legislative Language

(H.R. 3944, as reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, [page 169](#))

SEC. 260. The Department is directed to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the status of implementation of the provisions in Public Law 118–42 related to veterans in the Freely Associated States [FAS] in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent, including engagement with FAS governments, a projected timeline for veterans in the FAS to receive hospital care and medical services, and an estimate of the cost of implementation.

Senate Report Language

(Senate Report 119-43, [page 34](#))

Support for Veterans in the Freely Associated States [FAS].—The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42) requires VA to conduct outreach with the FAS, assess options for the delivery of hospital care and medical services in the FAS, and enter into agreements with the governments of the FAS before delivering hospital care and medical services. In line with Congressional intent, the Department is directed to provide these services before the end of fiscal year 2026, to include direct care from VA providers, telehealth, and care through contracts with community providers; shipping medications to the FAS; and reimbursing veterans for travel from their home countries to the United States. The Committee further directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to advance the Circular 175 process and enter into agreements with the governments of the FAS, to facilitate the furnishing of health services pursuant to and in order to carry out section 209(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 before the end of fiscal year 2026. To determine how VA will provide the resources needed to implement these new obligations, the Committee directs VA within 60 days of enactment of this act to provide the Committee with the estimated cost and the plan for implementing this law in fiscal year 2026.

House Report Language

(House Report 119-161, [page 35](#))

Support for FAS Veterans.—Since the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42), the Department is no longer restricted from providing services to veterans residing in the Freely Associated States (FAS), including, but not limited to, direct care from VA providers, telehealth, and care through contracts with community providers, and shipping medications to the FAS. The Committee requests a brief within 60 days of enactment of this Act with the estimated cost and the plan for implementing this law in fiscal year 2026.

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