

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use commercial codes and standards instead of or in addition to Federal codes and standards in the construction or alteration of facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BANKS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use commercial codes and standards instead of or in addition to Federal codes and standards in the construction or alteration of facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Faster Department
5 of Veterans Affairs Construction Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS USE OF COM-**
2 **MERCIAL CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES**
3 **CODE AND STANDARDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 shall use commercial codes and standards instead of or
6 in addition to Federal codes and standards in the con-
7 struction or alteration of facilities of the Department of
8 Veterans Affairs, where such commercial codes and stand-
9 ards do not conflict with statutory and regulatory require-
10 ments.

11 (b) PILOT PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall under-
12 take not fewer than three pilot projects during each of
13 fiscal years 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, and 2031 utilizing
14 commercial codes and standards instead of Federal codes
15 and standards to lease or construct facilities of the De-
16 partment for major construction, minor construction, or
17 major lease projects.

18 (c) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit a report
19 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
20 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives not later than 90 days after the end of each
22 of fiscal years 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, and 2031 detailing
23 the use by the Secretary of the authority provided by sub-
24 section (a) and conduct of each pilot project required by
25 subsection (b) that was initiated, ongoing, or completed
26 during the fiscal year.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) COMMERCIAL CODES AND STANDARDS.—

3 The term “commercial codes and standards” means
4 building codes or standards of the following:

5 (A) The National Fire Protection Associa-
6 tion.

7 (B) The International Code Council.

8 (C) The American Society for Testing and
9 Materials.

10 (D) The American Society of Civil Engi-
11 neers.

12 (E) Any other building code or standard,
13 other than those described in paragraph (2), de-
14 termined by the Secretary.

15 (2) FEDERAL CODES AND STANDARDS.—The
16 term “Federal codes and standards” means the fol-
17 lowing:

18 (A) Building codes or standards specific to
19 one or more Federal agencies.

20 (B) Building codes or standards specific to
21 the Department, including the Technical Infor-
22 mation Library.

23 (C) Standards of the Federal Guidelines
24 Institute.