

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8565

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend the Medicare-dependent hospital and low-volume hospital programs under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend the Medicare-dependent hospital and low-volume hospital programs under the Medicare program.

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 “Rural Hospital Exten-
5 sions for Low-volume Programs Act of 2022” or the
6 “Rural HELP Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMANENTLY EXTENDING THE MEDICARE-DE-**
2 **PENDENT HOSPITAL AND LOW-VOLUME HOS-**
3 **PITAL PROGRAMS UNDER THE MEDICARE**
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 (a) EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT
6 HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.—

7 (1) EXTENSION OF PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

8 Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42
9 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

10 (A) in clause (i), by striking “, and before
11 October 1, 2022”; and

12 (B) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “, and be-
13 fore October 1, 2022”.

14 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

15 (A) EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.—

16 Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amend-
18 ed—

19 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
20 by striking “, and before October 1,
21 2022”; and

22 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking
23 “through fiscal year 2022” and inserting
24 “or a subsequent fiscal year”.

25 (B) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE
26 RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of

1 the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993
2 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by strik-
3 ing “fiscal year 2000 through fiscal year 2022”
4 and inserting “a subsequent fiscal year”.

5 (b) EXTENSION OF THE INCREASED PAYMENTS
6 UNDER THE MEDICARE LOW-VOLUME HOSPITAL PRO-
7 GRAM.—Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

10 (A) in the header, by inserting “FOR FIS-
11 CAL YEARS 2005 THROUGH 2010” after “IN-
12 CREASE”; and

13 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
14 striking “and for discharges occurring in fiscal
15 year 2023 and subsequent fiscal years”;

16 (2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding subclause (I),
18 by striking “through 2022” and inserting “and
19 each subsequent fiscal year”;

20 (B) in subclause (II), by adding at the end
21 “and”;

22 (C) in subclause (III)—

23 (i) by striking “fiscal years 2019
24 through 2022” and inserting “fiscal year

1 2019 and each subsequent fiscal year”;

2 and

3 (ii) by striking “; and” and inserting

4 a period; and

5 (D) by striking subclause (IV); and

6 (3) in subparagraph (D)—

7 (A) by amending the header to read as fol-

8 lows: “APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE INCREASE

9 BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2021”;

10 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), by

11 striking “fiscal years 2011 through 2022” and

12 inserting “fiscal year 2019 and each subsequent

13 fiscal year”; and

14 (C) in clause (ii), by striking “each of fis-

15 cal years 2019 through 2022” and inserting

16 “fiscal year 2019 and each subsequent fiscal

17 year”.

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