To provide reimbursement under the Medicaid program to individuals and entities that provide voluntary non-emergency medical transportation to Medicaid beneficiaries for expenses related to no-load travel.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 16, 2014

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To provide reimbursement under the Medicaid program to individuals and entities that provide voluntary non-emergency medical transportation to Medicaid beneficiaries for expenses related to no-load travel.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Recruiting Individuals to Drive Our Elders Act of 2014” or the “RIDE Act of 2014”.

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SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR NO-LOAD TRAVEL COSTS INCURRED BY VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall publish an interim final rule to revise the Medicaid transportation regulations at sections 431.53 and 440.170 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, as necessary, to allow a State plan for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide, at the option of the State, reimbursement for costs attributable to providing no-load volunteer travel services to individuals eligible for medical assistance under the State plan who require transportation to receive non-emergency medical treatment.

(b) NO-LOAD VOLUNTEER TRAVEL SERVICE.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term “no-load volunteer travel service” means travel services that—

(1) are provided by a person who, as determined by a State, local, or tribal government, provides such services on a volunteer basis (referred to in this subsection as a “volunteer”); and

(2) are necessary for the volunteer to—

(A) travel from the originating location of the volunteer to the location of an individual
who is eligible for medical assistance under the
State Medicaid plan and requires transportation
to receive non-emergency medical treatment (in-
cluding, for purposes of an individual who re-
quested transportation to receive non-emer-
gency medical treatment and subsequently re-
fused such transportation or was not present at
the requested pick-up location, any travel that
is necessary for the volunteer to return to their
originating location);

(B) for purposes of an individual who has
been provided transportation by the volunteer
to receive non-emergency medical treatment and
is required to remain at the treatment location
overnight or for an extended period of time (as
determined appropriate by a State, local, or
tribal government), return to the originating lo-
cation of the volunteer and, following the com-
pletion of such treatment, travel back to the
treatment location; and

(C) following any transportation that is
necessary to return an individual who has re-
ceived non-emergency medical treatment to
their pick-up location, return to the originating location of the volunteer.