

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 5492

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payment for services of radiologist assistants under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 11, 2024

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

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payment for services of radiologist assistants under the Medicare program, 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 “Medicare Access to  
5 Radiology Care Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) Radiologist assistants are advanced-level  
2 radiographers who are critically important members  
3 of the radiologist-led team.

4           (2) Radiologist assistants work strictly under  
5 the supervision of a radiologist to promote high  
6 standards of patient care by assisting radiologists in  
7 the diagnostic and interventional imaging environ-  
8 ment.

9           (3) In every jurisdiction authorizing radiologists  
10 assistants to practice, they are only permitted to fur-  
11 nish services when delegated by and under the su-  
12 pervision of a radiologist.

13           (4) Radiologist assistants value their working  
14 and professional relationships with radiologists and  
15 have never sought, nor do they seek, the ability to  
16 practice independent of radiologists.

17           (5) While radiologist assistants perform various  
18 valuable professional services and may make and  
19 communicate initial observations to the radiologist,  
20 radiologist assistants are not qualified to perform in-  
21 terpretations (preliminary, final, or otherwise) of any  
22 radiological examination.

23           (6) Removing barriers to care rendered by radi-  
24 ologist assistants under the supervision of a radiolo-  
25 gist will provide value-based, efficient solutions to

1 improve patient outcomes while ensuring patient  
2 safety.

3 **SEC. 3. MEDICARE PAYMENT FOR RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANT**  
4 **SERVICES.**

5 (a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861 of the Social Security  
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (s)(2)(K)—

8 (A) in clause (ii), by striking the semicolon  
9 at the end and inserting “, and”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
11 clause:

12 “(iii) radiologist assistant services (as defined  
13 in subsection (nnn)(1));”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
15 section:

16 “(nnn) RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANT SERVICES; RADI-  
17 OLOGIST ASSISTANT.—

18 “(1) RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANT SERVICES.—The  
19 term ‘radiologist assistant services’ means—

20 “(A) services which would be physicians’  
21 services if furnished by a physician (as defined  
22 in subsection (r)(1)) and which are performed  
23 by a radiologist assistant (as defined in para-  
24 graph (2)) under the supervision of a radiolo-  
25 gist;

1           “(B) services which the radiologist assist-  
 2           ant is legally authorized to perform by the  
 3           State in which the services are performed; and

4           “(C) such services and supplies furnished  
 5           as an incident to such services as would be cov-  
 6           ered under subparagraph (A) if furnished inci-  
 7           dent to a physician’s professional service, but  
 8           only if no facility or other provider charges or  
 9           is paid any amounts with respect to the fur-  
 10          nishing of such services.

11          “(2) RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANT.—The term ‘ra-  
 12          diologist assistant’ means a radiographer who is cer-  
 13          tified by the American Registry of Radiologic Tech-  
 14          nologists as a registered radiologist assistant or by  
 15          the Certification Board for Radiology Practitioner  
 16          Assistants as a radiology practitioner assistant to  
 17          perform radiologist assistant services.

18          “(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
 19          this subsection shall be construed as affecting—

20               “(A) coverage of and payment for the tech-  
 21               nical component (including the technical compo-  
 22               nent of a global fee) with respect to imaging  
 23               services under this title as in effect before the  
 24               date of the enactment of this subsection;

1 “(B) the amount of payment made for  
 2 physicians’ services under this title when fur-  
 3 nished solely by a radiologist; or

4 “(C) the amount of payment made under  
 5 this title for services furnished by a covered fa-  
 6 cility setting (as defined in section  
 7 1848(a)(10)(B)).”.

8 (b) PAYMENT IN RELATION TO PHYSICIAN FEE  
 9 SCHEDULE.—

10 (1) PAYMENT LEVEL.—Section 1833(a)(1)(O)  
 11 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 12 1395l(a)(1)(O)) is amended by striking “or clinical  
 13 nurse specialists” and inserting “clinical nurse spe-  
 14 cialists, or radiologist assistants”.

15 (2) APPLICATION OF FEE SCHEDULE IN HOS-  
 16 PITAL, AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER SET-  
 17 TINGS.—Section 1848(a) of the Social Security Act  
 18 (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(a)) is amended by adding at  
 19 the end the following new paragraph:

20 “(10) APPLICATION OF FEE SCHEDULE FOR  
 21 RADIOLOGIST ASSISTANT SERVICES IN HOSPITAL,  
 22 AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER SETTINGS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of radiolo-  
 24 gist assistant services (as defined in section  
 25 1861(nnn)(1)) furnished in a covered facility

1           setting (as defined in subparagraph (B)), pay-  
 2           ment for such services furnished in such setting  
 3           shall be made to the supervising radiologist in  
 4           the amount determined pursuant to section  
 5           1833(a)(1)(O).

6           “(B) COVERED FACILITY SETTING DE-  
 7           FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered  
 8           facility setting’ means—

9                   “(i) a hospital or critical access hos-  
 10                  pital;

11                  “(ii) an ambulatory surgical center;  
 12                  and

13                  “(iii) such other providers of services  
 14                  as the Secretary may specify.”.

15           (3) PAYMENT TO SUPERVISING RADIOLOGIST.—  
 16           Section 1842(b)(6) of the Social Security Act (42  
 17           U.S.C. 1395u(b)(6)) is amended in the first sen-  
 18           tence—

19                   (A) by striking “and” before “(J)”; and

20                   (B) by inserting before the period at the  
 21           end the following: “, and (K) in the case of  
 22           services described in section 1861(s)(2)(K)(iii)  
 23           (relating to radiologist assistant services), pay-  
 24           ment shall be made to the supervising radiolo-  
 25           gist”.

1       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply to services furnished on or after  
3 January 1, 2025.

