

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5821

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the treatment of certain hospitals as critical access hospitals under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2025

Mr. LAMALFA 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 provide for the treatment of certain hospitals as critical access hospitals 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 Fair-
5 ness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVIDING FOR THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN**
2 **HOSPITALS AS CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS**
3 **UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 1820(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1395i–4(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following
6 new paragraph:

7 “(4) CONTINUATION OF CAH STATUS FOR CER-
8 TAIN FACILITIES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A facility described in
10 subparagraph (B) that does not meet the loca-
11 tion requirement under subsection
12 (c)(2)(B)(i)(I) (and was not certified by the
13 State as being a necessary provider of health
14 care services to residents in the area under sub-
15 section (c)(2)(B)(i)(II)) shall be deemed to have
16 been certified by the Secretary under subsection
17 (e) as a critical access hospital so long as such
18 facility is otherwise eligible to be designated by
19 the State as a critical access hospital under
20 subsection (c) and meets any other criteria re-
21 quired by the Secretary under subsection (e)(3).

22 “(B) FACILITY DESCRIBED.—For purposes
23 of subparagraph (A), a facility described in this
24 subparagraph is a facility that—

25 “(i) was designated as a critical ac-
26 cess hospital before January 1, 2002;

1 “(ii) as of December 31, 2024, was
2 certified by the Secretary under subsection
3 (e) as a critical access hospital; and

4 “(iii) as of the date on which the facil-
5 ity was officially notified by the Secretary
6 that it was no longer so certified, was lo-
7 cated in a county (or equivalent unit of
8 local government) in which no other hos-
9 pital, critical access hospital, or rural
10 emergency hospital was located.”.

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