

1 (1) in clause (i), by striking “described in
2 clause (ii)” and inserting “that is located in an
3 urban area (as defined in paragraph (2)(D)) and
4 meets any of the criteria described in subclause (I),
5 (II), or (IV) of clause (ii) (or, with respect to a hos-
6 pital submitting such an application before October
7 1, 2026, meets any of the criteria described in such
8 clause)”;

9 (2) in clause (ii)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding subclause (I),
11 by striking “a subsection (d) hospital” and all
12 that follows through “criteria:” and inserting
13 “the criteria described in this clause are the fol-
14 lowing:”; and

15 (B) in subclause (II)—

16 (i) by inserting “that is” before “des-
17 ignated by any law”; and

18 (ii) by inserting “, and that was so
19 designated as of January 1, 2026” before
20 the period at the end; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new
22 clause:

23 “(iii) No subsection (d) hospital shall be treated as
24 being located in a rural area of a State under this sub-
25 paragraph on or after October 1, 2029, regardless of any

1 application described in clause (i) submitted prior to Octo-
2 ber 1, 2026, unless such hospital demonstrates to the Sec-
3 retary (in a form and manner specified by the Secretary)
4 that such hospital meets any of the criteria described in
5 subclause (I), (II), or (IV) of clause (ii).”.

6 (b) PROHIBITING DUAL RECLASSIFICATIONS
7 THROUGH THE MEDICARE GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION
8 REVIEW BOARD.—Section 1886(d)(10)(D) of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(10)(D)) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) in clause (v), by striking “Any decision”
12 and inserting “Subject to clause (viii), any decision”;
13 and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
15 clauses:

16 “(vii) Such guidelines shall provide that the Board
17 may not approve an application described in subparagraph
18 (C)(i) submitted by a subsection (d) hospital requesting
19 a change in geographic classification for a fiscal year be-
20 ginning on or after October 1, 2026, if such hospital is
21 treated as being located in a rural area under paragraph
22 (8)(E) for such fiscal year.

23 “(viii) With respect to a fiscal year beginning on or
24 after October 1, 2026, no change in the geographic classi-
25 fication of a subsection (d) hospital that would otherwise

1 be in effect for such fiscal year pursuant to a decision of
2 the Board shall be effective for any portion of such fiscal
3 year during which such hospital is treated as being located
4 in a rural area under paragraph (8)(E).”.

○