

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 551

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a cost-of-living adjustment to the non-labor related portion for hospital outpatient department services furnished in Alaska and Hawaii.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a cost-of-living adjustment to the non-labor related portion for hospital outpatient department services furnished in Alaska and Hawaii.

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 “Ensuring Outpatient
5 Quality for Rural States Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT TO**
 2 **NON-LABOR RELATED PORTION FOR HOS-**
 3 **PITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES**
 4 **FURNISHED IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.**

5 Section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 6 1395l(t)) is amended by adding at the end the following
 7 new paragraph:

8 “(23) APPLICATION OF COST-OF-LIVING AD-
 9 JUSTMENT TO NON-LABOR RELATED PORTION FOR
 10 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES
 11 FURNISHED IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.—With respect
 12 to covered OPD services furnished on or after Janu-
 13 ary 1, 2026, the Secretary may provide for adjust-
 14 ments to the payment amounts under this subsection
 15 for such services in the same manner that is pro-
 16 vided under section 1886(d)(5)(H) with respect to
 17 the application of the cost-of-living adjustment to
 18 the non-labor related portion of such payment
 19 amounts to take into account the unique cir-
 20 cumstances of hospitals located in Alaska or Hawaii.
 21 The preceding sentence shall not be applied in a
 22 budget neutral manner.”.

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