

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4317

To provide for a pilot program for the use of optical memory cards under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 1998

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a pilot program for the use of optical memory cards under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

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. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE USE OF OPTICAL**
4 **MEMORY CARDS UNDER THE MEDICARE AND**
5 **MEDICAID PROGRAMS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Health
7 Care Financing Administration shall provide for a pilot
8 program to examine the use of optical memory cards for
9 the storage of identification and medical records informa-

1 tion on medicare and medicaid beneficiaries. Such pro-
2 gram shall specifically examine the impact of the use of
3 such cards—

4 (1) on reducing waste, fraud, and abuse under
5 the medicare and medicaid programs, and

6 (2) on savings in costs under such programs as
7 a result of greater efficiencies in the storage and re-
8 trieval of information.

9 The pilot program shall be conducted in at least 8, but
10 not more than 10, hospitals and health care centers lo-
11 cated in the area of Southern New Jersey and Eastern
12 Pennsylvania, to be selected jointly by the Administrator
13 and the grantee operating the program. Hospitals and
14 centers participating in the program shall be provided at
15 no cost with computer readers to store and retrieve data
16 on the card. The pilot program shall operate for a 1 year
17 period.

18 (b) REPORT.—Within 90 days after the date of the
19 completion of the pilot program, the Administrator shall
20 submit to Congress a report on the success or failure of
21 the pilot program under this section. Such report shall in-
22 clude such recommendations on the continued and ex-
23 panded use of optical memory cards under the medicare
24 and medicaid programs as the Administrator deems ap-
25 propriate.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are
2 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out the
3 pilot program under this section. Amounts appropriated
4 under this subsection shall remain available until ex-
5 pended. Of the amount appropriated to carry out the pro-
6 gram—

7 (1) \$850,000 shall be available for the costs of
8 manufacturing and distributing optical memory
9 cards, and

10 (2) \$150,000 shall be available for the distribu-
11 tion of the computer readers to hospitals and health
12 care centers participating in the pilot program and
13 for training costs in such hospitals and centers.

14 (d) OPTICAL MEMORY CARD DEFINED.—For pur-
15 poses of this section, the term “optical memory card”
16 means a card which—

17 (1) is approximately the size of a credit card or
18 driver’s license;

19 (2) serves as identification of a patient and
20 stores medical data on the patient in electronic form;

21 (3) identifies the patient through a photograph
22 of the patient on the front of the card, as well as
23 a photograph and finger print in electronic form
24 stored within the data on the card; and

1 (4) can have the data stored on it read through
2 a computer reader that is at a hospital or health
3 care center participating in the pilot program.

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