

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1890

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide that geographic reclassifications of hospitals from one urban area to another urban area do not result in lower wage indexes in the urban area in which the hospital was originally classified.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 1999

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) 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 that geographic reclassifications of hospitals from one urban area to another urban area do not result in lower wage indexes in the urban area in which the hospital was originally classified.

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 Geographic
5 Reclassifications Equity Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF WAGE INDEX FLOOR FOR HOS-**
 2 **PITAL GEOGRAPHIC RECLASSIFICATIONS**
 3 **FROM ONE URBAN AREA TO ANOTHER**
 4 **URBAN AREA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(8)(C)(ii) of the
 6 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(8)(C)(ii)) is
 7 amended—

8 (1) by inserting “(I)” after “(ii)”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 10 clause:

11 “(II) If the application of subparagraph (B) or a de-
 12 cision of the Medicare Geographic Classification Review
 13 Board or the Secretary under paragraph (10), by treating
 14 hospitals located in one urban area as being located in
 15 another urban area reduces the wage index for that one
 16 urban area (as applied under this subsection), the Sec-
 17 retary shall calculate and apply such wage index under
 18 this subsection as if the hospitals so treated had not been
 19 excluded from the calculation of the wage index for that
 20 one urban area.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 22 subsection (a) apply to cost reporting periods beginning
 23 on or after October 1, 1999.

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