

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1955

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require that the area wage adjustment under the prospective payment system for skilled nursing facility services be based on the wages of individuals employed at skilled nursing facilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2002

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. DAYTON) 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 require that the area wage adjustment under the prospective payment system for skilled nursing facility services be based on the wages of individuals employed at skilled nursing facilities.

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 “Skilled Nursing Facil-
5 ity Wage Information Improvement Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITY WAGE DATA**
 2 **UNDER THE PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM**
 3 **FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITY SERVICES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Skilled nursing facilities (as defined in sec-
 6 tion 1819(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 7 1395i–3(a))) employ a significantly different group
 8 of health care professionals than the health care pro-
 9 fessionals employed by hospitals (as defined in sec-
 10 tion 1861(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(e))).

11 (2) Because of the difference described in para-
 12 graph (1) the wage variation in skilled nursing facili-
 13 ties also differs from that of hospitals.

14 (3) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Serv-
 15 ices is currently collecting skilled nursing facility
 16 wage data but has not set a date for implementation
 17 of an area wage index for such facilities under the
 18 prospective payment system for skilled nursing facil-
 19 ity services under section 1888(e) of such Act (42
 20 U.S.C. 1395yy(e)) that is based on such wage data.

21 (b) USE OF SKILLED NURSING FACILITY WAGE
 22 DATA.—Section 1888(e)(4)(G)(ii) of the Social Security
 23 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395yy(e)(4)(G)(ii)) is amended—

24 (1) in the second sentence, by striking “Such
 25 adjustment” and inserting “The area wage adjust-
 26 ment under this clause”; and

1 (2) by inserting after the first sentence the fol-
2 lowing new sentence: “Beginning October 1, 2002,
3 the area wage adjustment under this clause shall be
4 based on the wages of individuals employed at
5 skilled nursing facilities.”.

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