

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2322

To amend the Social Security Act to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage of certain disabled individuals who have no health insurance coverage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 amend the Social Security Act to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage of certain disabled individuals who have no health insurance coverage.

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 “Immediate Access to
5 Medicare for the Disabled Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF 24-MONTH WAITING PERIOD FOR MEDI-**
2 **CARE COVERAGE OF CERTAIN DISABLED IN-**
3 **DIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NO HEALTH INSUR-**
4 **ANCE COVERAGE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 226 of the Social Security
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 426) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-
8 section (k); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
10 lowing new subsection:

11 “(j)(1) With respect to an individual described in
12 paragraph (2) who would be entitled to benefits under sub-
13 section (b) but for the 24-month waiting period under sub-
14 section (b)(2), the following special rules apply:

15 “(A) Subsection (b) shall be applied as if there
16 were no requirement for any entitlement to benefits,
17 or status, for a period longer than one month.

18 “(B) The entitlement under such subsection
19 shall begin with the first month (rather than twenty-
20 fifth month) of entitlement or status.

21 “(C) Subsection (f) shall not be applied.

22 “(2) The special rules set forth in paragraph (1)
23 apply to an individual who demonstrates to the Secretary
24 that, during the 60-day period preceding the date on
25 which such individual files an application for benefits

1 under subsection (b)(2)(C), such individual has no health
2 insurance coverage.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1837 of
4 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new subsection:

6 “(k) In applying this section in the case of an indi-
7 vidual who is entitled to benefits under part A pursuant
8 to the operation of section 226(j), the following special
9 rules apply:

10 “(1) The initial enrollment period under sub-
11 section (d) shall begin on the first day of the first
12 month in which the individual satisfies the require-
13 ment of section 1836(1).

14 “(2) In applying subsection (g)(1), the initial
15 enrollment period shall begin on the first day of the
16 first month of entitlement to disability insurance
17 benefits referred to in such subsection.”.

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this section shall apply to benefits for months beginning
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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