

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 636

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a permanent increase in medicare payments for home health services that are furnished in rural areas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2003

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. BOND) 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 a permanent increase in medicare payments for home health services that are furnished in rural areas.

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 “Rural Home Health
5 Payment Fairness Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMANENT INCREASE IN MEDICARE PAYMENT**
 2 **FOR HOME HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED IN**
 3 **A RURAL AREA.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1895 of the Social Secu-
 5 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395fff) is amended by adding at the
 6 end the following new subsection:

7 “(f) INCREASE IN PAYMENT FOR SERVICES FUR-
 8 NISHED IN A RURAL AREA.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of home health
 10 services furnished in a rural area (as defined in sec-
 11 tion 1886(d)(2)(D)) on or after April 1, 2003, the
 12 Secretary shall increase the payment amount other-
 13 wise made under this section for such services by 10
 14 percent.

15 “(2) WAIVER OF BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—The
 16 Secretary shall not reduce the standard prospective
 17 payment amount (or amounts) under this section ap-
 18 plicable to home health services furnished during a
 19 period to offset the increase in payments resulting
 20 from the application of paragraph (1).”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 22 this section shall apply to services furnished on or after
 23 April 1, 2003.

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