

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3559

To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure access to durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2005

Mr. HOBSON (for himself and Mr. TANNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and 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 amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure access to durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program.

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 Durable
5 Medical Equipment Access Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. BENEFICIARY PROTECTIONS.**

2 (a) APPLICATION OF QUALITY STANDARDS.—Section
3 1847(b)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 1395w-3(b)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(B) APPLICATION OF QUALITY STAND-
6 ARDS AND RECEIPT OF ADVICE FROM OVER-
7 SIGHT COMMITTEE.—The Secretary may not
8 award any contracts under the competitive ac-
9 quisition program under this section unless—

10 “(i) the quality standards have been
11 implemented under section 1834(a)(20);
12 and

13 “(ii) the Secretary has received advice
14 from the program oversight committee es-
15 tablished under subsection (c).”.

16 (b) REQUIRING USE OF EXEMPTIONS.—Section
17 1847(a)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(a)(3)) is
18 amended by striking “may exempt” and inserting “shall
19 exempt”.

20 (c) EXEMPTION OF SMALLER MSAs.—Section
21 1847(a)(3)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(a)(3)(A))
22 is amended by inserting “(including any metropolitan sta-
23 tistical area with a population of less than 500,000)” after
24 “rural areas”.

25 (d) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-
26 MITTEE ACT (FACA) TO PROGRAM ADVISORY AND OVER-

1 SIGHT COMMITTEE (PAOC).—Section 1847(c)(4) of such
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–3(c)(4)) is amended to read as fol-
3 lows:

4 “(4) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The provisions
5 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
6 App.) shall apply to the Committee.”.

7 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall be effective as if included in the enact-
9 ment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement,
10 and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–173).

11 **SEC. 3. SMALL SUPPLIER PROTECTIONS.**

12 (a) QUALIFIED SUPPLIER PARTICIPATION.—Section
13 1847(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–
14 3(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “The Sec-
16 retary may limit” and inserting “Subject to para-
17 graph (6)(D), the Secretary may limit”; and

18 (2) in paragraph (6)(D), by adding at the end
19 the following: “Such appropriate steps shall include
20 permitting suppliers that are classified as small busi-
21 nesses under the Small Business Act to continue to
22 participate as suppliers at the selected award price
23 so long as they submit bids at less than the fee
24 schedule amount otherwise applicable to the items

1 and they otherwise comply with applicable program
2 requirements.”.

3 (b) RESTORATION OF DUE PROCESS.—Section
4 1847(b)(10) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(b)(10)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “NO ADMINISTRATIVE OR JUDI-
7 CIAL REVIEW” and inserting “RESTORATION OF AP-
8 PEAL RIGHTS”; and

9 (2) by striking “There shall be no administra-
10 tive or judicial review under section 1869, section
11 1878, or otherwise of” and inserting “Administra-
12 tive and judicial review shall only be available under
13 section 1869 (and not otherwise) of”.

14 (c) APPLICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR SIGNIFI-
15 CANT SAVINGS.—Section 1847(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
16 1395w-3(a)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “of at
18 least 10 percent” after “significant savings”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
20 following new subparagraph:

21 “(D) REQUIREMENT FOR SIGNIFICANT
22 SAVINGS.—The Secretary shall not implement a
23 program under this section with respect to an
24 item or service unless the Secretary dem-
25 onstrates a probability of achieving significant

1 savings of at least 10 percent, compared to the
2 fee schedule in effect on January 1, 2006, by
3 including the item or service in the program.”.

4 (d) COMPARABILITY ANALYSIS.—Section 1834(a)(1)
5 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “subject
7 to subparagraph (G),” after “2009,”; and
8 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 paragraphs:

10 “(G) REQUIREMENT FOR COMPARABILITY
11 ANALYSIS BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION.—The
12 Secretary may not implement subparagraph (F)
13 with respect to the application of rates in an
14 area that is not a competitive acquisition area
15 under section 1847 unless the Secretary has
16 completed and published in the Federal Reg-
17 ister a comparability analysis to ensure the ap-
18 plication is appropriate. The comparability
19 analysis shall include at least an analysis of the
20 relative costs of providing the particular items
21 and services in the respective metropolitan sta-
22 tistical areas and an assessment of whether ap-
23 plication of the bid rate in an area that is not
24 a competitive acquisition area would adversely

1 impact beneficiary access to quality items and
2 services.

3 “(H) APPLICATION OF COMPARABILITY
4 ANALYSIS REQUIREMENT TO CERTAIN OTHER
5 PART B ITEMS AND SERVICES.—Subparagraph
6 (G) shall also apply to the implementation of
7 section 1847(a) with respect to items described
8 in paragraph (2)(B) or (2)(C) of such section
9 that are furnished on or after January 1,
10 2009.”.

11 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 this section shall be effective as if included in the enact-
13 ment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement,
14 and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–173).

○