

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2644

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of marriage and family therapist services under Medicare part B, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2007

Mr. JEFFERSON 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 title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of marriage and family therapist services under Medicare part B, and for other purposes.

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 Marriage and
5 Family Therapist Services Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST**
2 **SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE PART B.**

3 (a) **COVERAGE OF SERVICES.**—Section 1861(s)(2) of
4 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in subparagraph (Z), by striking “and” at
7 the end;

8 (2) in subparagraph (AA), by adding at the end
9 “and”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 paragraph:

12 “(BB) marriage and family therapist serv-
13 ices (as defined in subsection (ccc)(1));”.

14 (b) **DEFINITION.**—Section 1861 of such Act (42
15 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing new subsection:

17 “(ccc) **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST SERV-**
18 **ICES.**—(1) The term ‘marriage and family therapist serv-
19 ices’ means services performed by a marriage and family
20 therapist (as defined in paragraph (2)) for the diagnosis
21 and treatment of mental illnesses, which the marriage and
22 family therapist is legally authorized to perform under
23 State law (or the State regulatory mechanism provided by
24 State law) of the State in which such services are per-
25 formed, as would otherwise be covered if furnished by a
26 physician or as an incident to a physician’s professional

1 service, but only if no facility or other provider charges
2 or is paid any amounts with respect to the furnishing of
3 such services.

4 “(2) The term ‘marriage and family therapist’ means
5 an individual who—

6 “(A) possesses a master’s or doctoral degree
7 which qualifies for licensure or certification as a
8 marriage and family therapist pursuant to State
9 law;

10 “(B) after obtaining such degree has performed
11 at least two years of clinical supervised experience in
12 marriage and family therapy; and

13 “(C) in the case of an individual performing
14 services in a State that provides for licensure or cer-
15 tification of marriage or family therapists, is li-
16 censed or certified as a marriage and family thera-
17 pist in such State.”.

18 (c) PROVISION FOR PAYMENT UNDER PART B.—Sec-
19 tion 1832(a)(2)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
20 1395k(a)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing new clause:

22 “(v) marriage and family therapist serv-
23 ices;”.

24 (d) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—Section 1833(a)(1) of
25 such Act (42 U.S.C. 13951(a)(1)) is amended—

1 **SEC. 3. COVERAGE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST**
2 **SERVICES PROVIDED IN CERTAIN SETTINGS.**

3 (a) RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section
4 1861(aa)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1395x(aa)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “, by a mar-
6 riage and family therapist (as defined in subsection
7 (ccc)(2)),” after “by a clinical psychologist (as defined by
8 the Secretary)”.

9 (b) HOSPICE PROGRAMS.—Section
10 1861(dd)(2)(B)(i)(III) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1395x(dd)(2)(B)(i)(III)) is amended by inserting “or mar-
12 riage and family therapist (as defined in subsection
13 (ccc)(2))” after “social worker”.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**
15 **THERAPISTS TO DEVELOP DISCHARGE PLANS**
16 **FOR POST-HOSPITAL SERVICES.**

17 Section 1861(ee)(2)(G) of the Social Security Act (42
18 U.S.C. 1395x(ee)(2)(G)) is amended by inserting “mar-
19 riage and family therapist (as defined in subsection
20 (ccc)(2)),” after “social worker,”.

21 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

22 The amendments made by this Act apply with respect
23 to services furnished on or after November 1, 2007.

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