

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 588

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the Medicare caps on graduate medical education positions for States with a shortage of residents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2007

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. BIDEN) 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 increase the Medicare caps on graduate medical education positions for States with a shortage of residents.

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 “Resident Physician
5 Shortage Reduction Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASING THE MEDICARE CAPS ON GRADUATE**
 2 **MEDICAL EDUCATION POSITIONS FOR**
 3 **STATES WITH A SHORTAGE OF RESIDENTS.**

4 (a) DIRECT GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Sec-
 5 tion 1886(h)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 6 1395ww(h)(4)(F)) is amended—

7 (1) in clause (i), by inserting “clause (iii) and”
 8 after “subject to”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new
 10 clause:

11 “(iii) INCREASE IN CAPS ON GRAD-
 12 UATE MEDICAL EDUCATION POSITIONS FOR
 13 STATES WITH A SHORTAGE OF RESI-
 14 DENTS.—

15 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For cost re-
 16 porting periods beginning on or after
 17 the date that is 16 months after the
 18 date of enactment of the Resident
 19 Physician Shortage Reduction Act of
 20 2007, the Secretary shall increase the
 21 otherwise applicable limit on the total
 22 number of full-time equivalent resi-
 23 dents in the field of allopathic or os-
 24 teopathic medicine determined under
 25 clause (i) with respect to a qualifying
 26 hospital in an eligible State by an

amount determined appropriate by the Secretary. Such increase shall be phased-in over a period of 5 cost reporting periods beginning with the first cost reporting period in which the increase is applied under the previous sentence to the hospital. For each eligible State the aggregate number of such increases shall be—

“(aa) not less than 15; and

“(bb) not greater than the State resident cap increase.

“(II) QUALIFYING HOSPITAL.—

In this clause, the term ‘qualifying hospital’ means a hospital located in an eligible State that the Secretary determines should receive an increase under this clause in the otherwise applicable limit on the total number of full-time equivalent residents in the field of allopathic or osteopathic medicine.

“(III) ELIGIBLE STATE.—In this clause, the term ‘eligible State’ means a State for which the National median

1 medical resident ratio exceeds the
2 State medical resident ratio.

3 “(IV) STATE RESIDENT CAP IN-
4 CREASE.—In this clause, the term
5 ‘State resident cap increase’ means,
6 with respect to a State, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the
7 product of—

8 “(aa) the difference between
9 the National median medical resi-
10 dent ratio and the State medical
11 resident ratio; and

12 “(bb) the State population
13 (as determined for purposes of
14 subclause (VI)).

15 “(V) NATIONAL MEDIAN MED-
16 ICAL RESIDENT RATIO.—In this
17 clause, the term ‘National median
18 medical resident ratio’ means the me-
19 dian of all State medical resident ra-
20 tios.

21 “(VI) STATE MEDICAL RESIDENT
22 RATIO.—In this clause, the term
23 ‘State medical resident ratio’ means,
24 with respect to any State, the ratio of
25 full-time equivalent residents in the

1 State in approved medical residency
 2 training programs as of the date of
 3 enactment of the Resident Physician
 4 Shortage Reduction Act of 2007 to
 5 the population of the State as of such
 6 date, as determined by the Secretary.

7 “(VII) STATE.—In this clause,
 8 the term ‘State’ means a State and
 9 the District of Columbia.

10 “(VIII) CONSIDERATIONS IN DE-
 11 TERMINING RESIDENT CAP IN-
 12 CREASES.—In determining whether a
 13 hospital is a qualifying hospital, and
 14 how much of an increase in the resi-
 15 dent cap a qualifying hospital shall re-
 16 ceive under subclause (I), the Sec-
 17 retary shall take into consideration
 18 the demonstrated likelihood of the
 19 hospital filling resident positions that
 20 would be made available as a result of
 21 such increase within the first 3 cost
 22 reporting periods beginning on or
 23 after the date that is 16 months after
 24 the date of enactment of the Resident
 25 Physician Shortage Reduction Act of

1 2007. The Secretary shall also take
2 into consideration whether the new
3 resident positions will be in primary
4 care, preventive medicine, or geriatrics
5 programs.”.

6 (b) INDIRECT MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Section
7 1886(d)(5)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 1395ww(d)(5)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following new clause:

10 “(x) Clause (iii) of subsection (h)(4)(F) shall
11 apply to clause (v) in the same manner and for the
12 same period as such clause (iii) applies to clause (i)
13 of such subsection.”.

○