

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3242

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries coordinated care and greater choice with regard to accessing hearing health services and benefits.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2012

Mr. MENENDEZ 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 Medicare beneficiaries coordinated care and greater choice with regard to accessing hearing health services and benefits.

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 Hearing
5 Health Care Enhancement Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENABLING MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES TO HAVE**
 2 **THEIR CHOICE OF QUALIFIED HEARING**
 3 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

4 Section 1861(l)(3) of the Social Security Act (42
 5 U.S.C. 1395x(l)(3)) is amended by inserting before the
 6 period at the end the following: “, without regard to any
 7 requirement that the individual receiving the audiology
 8 services be under the care of (or referred by) a physician
 9 or other health care practitioner or that such services are
 10 provided under the supervision of a physician or other
 11 health care practitioner”.

12 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF AUDIOLOGY SERVICES AS MEDICAL**
 13 **SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE PART B; PAY-**
 14 **MENT FOR SUCH SERVICES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social
 16 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (EE), by striking “and” at
 18 the end;

19 (2) in subparagraph (FF), by inserting “and”
 20 at the end; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 22 paragraph:

23 “(GG) audiology services (as defined in sub-
 24 section (l)(3));”.

1 (b) PAYMENT UNDER THE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHED-
2 ULE.—Section 1848(j)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-
3 4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(GG),” before “(3),”.

4 **SEC. 4. CONSTRUCTION; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 (a) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments
6 made by this Act shall be construed to expand the scope
7 of audiology services for which payment may be made
8 under title XVIII of the Social Security Act on December
9 31, 2012.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this Act shall take effect with respect to services furnished
12 on or after January 1, 2013.

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