

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 986

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the eligibility of eligible professionals practicing in rural health clinics for electronic health records and quality improvement incentives under Medicare, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. WALDEN) 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 ensure the eligibility of eligible professionals practicing in rural health clinics for electronic health records and quality improvement incentives under Medicare, 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 “Rural Health Clinic
5 Fairness Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE EHR INCENTIVES TO ELI-**
2 **GIBLE PROFESSIONALS PRACTICING IN**
3 **RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1848(o)(5)(A) of the So-
5 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w(o)(5)(A)) is amended
6 by inserting before the period at the end the following:
7 “and, with respect to payment years after 2013, includes
8 rural health clinic services (as defined in section
9 1861(aa)(1)) furnished by an eligible professional”.

10 (b) **OFFSETTING REDUCTION.**—Section
11 1848(o)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
12 1395w-4(o)(1)(B)) is amended—

13 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “clauses (iii)
14 through (v)” and inserting “the succeeding clauses”;
15 and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following new
17 clause:

18 “(iv) **BUDGET NEUTRALITY ADJUST-**
19 **MENT.**—The Secretary shall reduce the ap-
20 plicable amounts that would otherwise be
21 determined under this subparagraph with
22 respect to 2014 and each succeeding year
23 by an amount that the Secretary estimates
24 would ensure that estimated aggregate
25 payments under this subsection for such
26 year is not increased as a result of the

1 amendment made by section 2(a) of the
2 Rural Health Clinic Fairness Act of
3 2013.”.

4 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE ERX AND QUALITY RE-**
5 **PORTING INCENTIVES TO RURAL HEALTH**
6 **CLINICS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(m)(6)(A) of the So-
8 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w(m)(6)(A)) is amended
9 by inserting before the period at the end the following:
10 “, except that the term ‘covered professional services’
11 shall, with respect to reporting periods for 2014 or a sub-
12 sequent year, include rural health clinic services (as de-
13 fined in section 1861(aa)(1)) furnished by an eligible pro-
14 fessional”.

15 (b) OFFSETTING REDUCTION.—Section 1848(m)(1)
16 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w(m)(1)) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “For pur-
18 poses” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (C),
19 for purposes”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
21 paragraph:

22 “(C) BUDGET NEUTRALITY ADJUST-
23 MENT.—The Secretary shall reduce the applica-
24 ble quality percent that would otherwise be de-
25 termined under subparagraph (B) for 2014 by

1 an amount that the Secretary estimates would
2 ensure that estimated aggregate payments
3 under this subsection for such year is not in-
4 creased as a result of the amendment made by
5 section 3(a) of the Rural Health Clinic Fairness
6 Act of 2013.”.

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