

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 332

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2015

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) 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 make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital 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 “Rural Hospital Access
5 Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOS-**
 2 **PITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.**

3 (a) EXTENSION OF PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—Sec-
 4 tion 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 5 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

6 (1) in clause (i), by striking “, and before April
 7 1, 2015”; and

8 (2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “, and before
 9 April 1, 2015”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (1) EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.—Section
 12 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 13 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

14 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
 15 striking “, and before April 1, 2015”; and

16 (B) in clause (iv), by striking “through fis-
 17 cal year 2014 and the portion of fiscal year
 18 2015 before April 1, 2015” and inserting “or a
 19 subsequent fiscal year”.

20 (2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RE-
 21 CLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omni-
 22 bus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.
 23 1395ww note) is amended by striking “fiscal year
 24 2000 through the first 2 quarters of fiscal year
 25 2015” and inserting “a subsequent fiscal year”.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE INCREASED PAYMENTS UNDER**
 2 **THE MEDICARE LOW-VOLUME HOSPITAL**
 3 **PROGRAM.**

4 Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42
 5 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter pre-
 7 ceding clause (i), by striking “and for discharges oc-
 8 ccurring in fiscal year 2015 (beginning on April 1,
 9 2015), fiscal year 2016, and subsequent fiscal
 10 years”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—

12 (A) by striking “fiscal years 2011 through
 13 2014 and fiscal year 2015 (before April 1,
 14 2015)” each place it appears and inserting “fis-
 15 cal year 2011 and each subsequent year”; and

16 (B) by striking “or portion of fiscal year”
 17 after “during the fiscal year”; and

18 (3) in subparagraph (D)—

19 (A) by striking “fiscal years 2011 through
 20 2014 and fiscal year 2015 (before April 1,
 21 2015),” and inserting “fiscal year 2011 and
 22 each subsequent fiscal year”; and

23 (B) by striking “or the portion of fiscal
 24 year” after “fiscal year”.