

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 607

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2016

Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

AN ACT

To provide for a five-year extension of the Medicare rural
community hospital demonstration program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Community Hos-
3 pital Demonstration Extension Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY**
5 **HOSPITAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

6 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 410A of the Medicare Pre-
7 scription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of
8 2003 (Public Law 108–173; 42 U.S.C. 1395ww note), as
9 amended by sections 3123 and 10313 of the Patient Pro-
10 tection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148),
11 is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking “5-year ex-
13 tension period” and inserting “10-year extension pe-
14 riod”; and

15 (2) in subsection (g)—

16 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
17 “FIVE-YEAR” and inserting “TEN-YEAR”;

18 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “addi-
19 tional 5-year” and inserting “additional 10-
20 year”;

21 (C) by striking “5-year extension period”
22 and inserting “10-year extension period” each
23 place it appears;

24 (D) in paragraph (4)(B)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 2 by inserting “each 5-year period in” after
 3 “hospital during”; and

4 (ii) in clause (i), by inserting “each
 5 applicable 5-year period in” after “the first
 6 day of”; and

7 (E) by adding at the end the following new
 8 paragraphs:

9 “(5) OTHER HOSPITALS IN DEMONSTRATION
 10 PROGRAM.—During the second 5 years of the 10-
 11 year extension period, the Secretary shall apply the
 12 provisions of paragraph (4) to rural community hos-
 13 pitals that are not described in paragraph (4) but
 14 are participating in the demonstration program
 15 under this section as of December 30, 2014, in a
 16 similar manner as such provisions apply to rural
 17 community hospitals described in paragraph (4).

18 “(6) EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
 19 TO RURAL AREAS IN ANY STATE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,
 21 notwithstanding subsection (a)(2) or paragraph
 22 (2) of this subsection, not later than 120 days
 23 after the date of the enactment of this para-
 24 graph, issue a solicitation for applications to se-
 25 lect up to the maximum number of additional

1 rural community hospitals located in any State
2 to participate in the demonstration program
3 under this section for the second 5 years of the
4 10-year extension period without exceeding the
5 limitation under paragraph (3) of this sub-
6 section.

7 “(B) PRIORITY.—In determining which
8 rural community hospitals that submitted an
9 application pursuant to the solicitation under
10 subparagraph (A) to select for participation in
11 the demonstration program, the Secretary—

12 “(i) shall give priority to rural com-
13 munity hospitals located in one of the 20
14 States with the lowest population densities
15 (as determined by the Secretary using the
16 2015 Statistical Abstract of the United
17 States); and

18 “(ii) may consider—

19 “(I) closures of hospitals located
20 in rural areas in the State in which
21 the rural community hospital is lo-
22 cated during the 5-year period imme-
23 diately preceding the date of the en-
24 actment of this paragraph; and

1 “(II) the population density of
2 the State in which the rural commu-
3 nity hospital is located.”.

4 (b) CHANGE IN TIMING FOR REPORT.—Subsection
5 (e) of such section 410A is amended—

6 (1) by striking “Not later than 6 months after
7 the completion of the demonstration program under
8 this section” and inserting “Not later than August
9 1, 2018”; and

10 (2) by striking “such program” and inserting
11 “the demonstration program under this section”.

Passed the Senate January 20, 2016.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,
Secretary.