

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 629

To enable hospital-based nursing programs that are affiliated with a hospital to maintain payments under the Medicare program to hospitals for the costs of such programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2015

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. McCASKILL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To enable hospital-based nursing programs that are affiliated with a hospital to maintain payments under the Medicare program to hospitals for the costs of such programs.

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 “Making the Education
5 of Nurses Dependable for Schools Act” or the “MEND
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENABLING HOSPITAL-BASED NURSING PROGRAMS**
2 **THAT ARE AFFILIATED WITH A HOSPITAL TO**
3 **MAINTAIN MEDICARE PAYMENTS FOR THE**
4 **COSTS OF SUCH PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of clarifying the
6 methodology for payment under the Medicare program
7 under title XVIII of the Social Security Act to providers
8 for the costs of nursing and allied health education activi-
9 ties for cost reporting periods beginning on or after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health
11 and Human Services shall apply section 413.85 of title
12 42, Code of Regulations—

13 (1) by treating a provider as meeting all of the
14 requirements described in paragraph (f)(1) of such
15 section if the provider or a wholly owned subsidiary
16 educational institution of such provider singly or col-
17 lectively meets all of such requirements;

18 (2) in the case of a provider that would meet
19 the requirements of paragraph (g)(3) of such sec-
20 tion, with respect to a nursing or allied health edu-
21 cation program, except that the transfer described in
22 such paragraph of such a program to a wholly
23 owned subsidiary educational institution in order to
24 meet accreditation standards occurred after October
25 1, 2003, by treating such provider as meeting the
26 requirements of such paragraph (and eligible for

1 payments under such paragraph) with respect to
 2 such program;

3 (3) in the case of a provider or wholly owned
 4 subsidiary educational institution of such provider
 5 that has been in continuous operation since October
 6 1, 2003, by treating such provider, beginning as of
 7 such date with respect to such program, as described
 8 in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; and

9 (4) by defining the term “wholly owned sub-
 10 subsidiary educational institution”, as referenced in
 11 such section, as such term is defined under sub-
 12 section (b).

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

14 (1) PROVIDER.—The term “provider” has the
 15 meaning given such term in section 400.202 of title
 16 42, Code of Federal Regulations.

17 (2) WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY EDUCATIONAL
 18 INSTITUTION.—The term “wholly owned subsidiary
 19 educational institution” means, with respect to a
 20 provider, an educational institution that—

21 (A) is organized as a legal entity distinct
 22 from the provider;

23 (B) has the provider as its sole owner or
 24 sole member; and

1 (C) is organized in the same State in
2 which the provider is organized or registered to
3 do business.

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