

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 768

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2015

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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 beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

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 “Steve Gleason Act of
5 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVIDING MEDICARE BENEFICIARY ACCESS TO**
 2 **EYE TRACKING ACCESSORIES FOR SPEECH**
 3 **GENERATING DEVICES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(n) of the Social Se-
 5 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(n)) is amended by inserting
 6 “and eye tracking and gaze interaction accessories for
 7 speech generating devices furnished to individuals with a
 8 demonstrated medical need for such accessories” after
 9 “appropriate organizations”).

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 11 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to devices furnished
 12 on or after January 1, 2016.

13 **SEC. 3. REMOVING THE RENTAL CAP FOR DURABLE MED-**
 14 **ICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER MEDICARE WITH**
 15 **RESPECT TO SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1834(a)(2)(A) of the So-
 17 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(2)(A)) is amend-
 18 ed—

19 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the end;

20 (2) in clause (iii), by adding “or” at the end;

21 and

22 (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following
 23 new clause:

24 “(iv) which serves as a speech gener-
 25 ating device or which is an accessory that

1 is needed for the individual to effectively
2 utilize such a device,”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall apply with respect to devices furnished
5 on or after July 1, 2015.

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