

H. R. 2990

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards, 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. PROHIBITION OF INCLUSION OF SOCIAL SECUR-**
4 **RITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS ON MEDICARE**
5 **CARDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

(iv) The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the

1 Commissioner of Social Security, shall es-
2 tablish cost-effective procedures to ensure
3 that a Social Security account number (or
4 derivative thereof) is not displayed, coded,
5 or embedded on the Medicare card issued
6 to an individual who is entitled to benefits
7 under part A of title XVIII or enrolled
8 under part B of title XVIII and that any
9 other identifier displayed on such card is
10 not identifiable as a Social Security ac-
11 count number (or derivative thereof).”.

12 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing clause (xiv)
13 of section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42
14 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)), as added by subsection (a), the Sec-
15 retary of Health and Human Services shall do the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Establish a cost-effective
18 process that involves the least amount of disruption
19 to, as well as necessary assistance for, Medicare
20 beneficiaries and health care providers, such as a
21 process that provides such beneficiaries with access
22 to assistance through a toll-free telephone number
23 and provides outreach to providers.

24 (2) CONSIDERATION OF MEDICARE BENE-
25 FICIARY IDENTIFIED.—Consider implementing a

1 process, similar to the process involving Railroad Re-
2 tirement Board beneficiaries, under which a Medi-
3 care beneficiary identifier which is not a Social Secu-
4 rity account number (or derivative thereof) is used
5 external to the Department of Health and Human
6 Services and is convertible over to a Social Security
7 account number (or derivative thereof) for use inter-
8 nal to such Department and the Social Security Ad-
9 ministration.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (xiv) of section
12 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 405(c)(2)(C)), as added by subsection (a), shall
14 apply with respect to Medicare cards issued on and
15 after an effective date specified by the Secretary of
16 Health and Human Services, but in no case shall
17 such effective date be later than January 1, 2018.

18 (2) REISSUANCE.—The Secretary shall provide
19 for the reissuance of Medicare cards that comply
20 with the requirements of such clause not later than
21 January 1, 2019.

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