

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3599

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to codify and permanently extend the Medicare hospital wage index imputed rural floor.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 11, 2018

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CARPER) 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 codify and permanently extend the Medicare hospital wage index imputed rural floor.

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 “Medicare Wage Index
5 Parity Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPUTED FLOOR ON THE AREA WAGE INDEX.**

7 Section 1886(d)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42
8 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)) is amended by adding at the
9 end the following new clause:

1 “(iv) FLOOR ON WAGE INDEX FOR
2 HOSPITALS IN ALL-URBAN STATES.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes
4 of applying the area wage index appli-
5 cable under this subparagraph, for
6 discharges occurring on or after Octo-
7 ber 1, 2018, the Secretary shall estab-
8 lish a minimum wage index for all-
9 urban States (as defined in subclause
10 (IV)).

11 “(II) MINIMUM WAGE INDEX.—
12 For purposes of subclause (I), the
13 minimum wage index for all-urban
14 States shall be established by the Sec-
15 retary using the methodology de-
16 scribed in section 412.64(h)(4) of title
17 42, Code of Federal Regulations, as in
18 effect for fiscal year 2018.

19 “(III) ADMINISTRATION.—The
20 Secretary shall administer the min-
21 imum wage index described in this
22 clause in the same manner described
23 in section 3141 of Public Law 111–
24 148 (through a uniform, national ad-
25 justment to the area wage index).

1 “(IV) ALL-URBAN STATE DE-
2 FINED.—In this clause, the term ‘all-
3 urban State’ means a State in which
4 there are no rural areas (as defined in
5 subsection (d)(2)(D) of section 1886
6 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1395ww(d)(2)(D))), or a State in
8 which there are no hospitals classified
9 as rural under such section.”.

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