

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7759

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to forgive the repayment, extend the timeline of repayment, and lower the interest rate of Medicare hospital accelerated payments made during the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. LONG, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. FORTENBERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to forgive the repayment, extend the timeline of repayment, and lower the interest rate of Medicare hospital accelerated payments made during the COVID–19 public health emergency, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Saving Rural Hospitals
5 from Closure Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING THE FORGIVENESS OF REPAYMENT,**
2 **EXTENSION OF REPAYMENT, AND LOWERING**
3 **OF INTEREST RATE OF MEDICARE HOSPITAL**
4 **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS MADE DURING**
5 **THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

6 Section 1815 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1395g) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (d), by inserting “subject to
9 subsection (f)(5),” after “determination,”; and

10 (2) in subsection (f)(2)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
12 “subject to paragraph (5),” before “the Sec-
13 retary”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(5)(A) Upon the request of a hospital, the
17 Secretary may forgive the repayment, extend the
18 timeline of repayment described in subparagraph
19 (C)(i), and lower the interest rate of any accelerated
20 payment within 30 days of receiving such request if
21 such a hospital experiences significant financial
22 hardship.

23 “(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), ‘sig-
24 nificant financial hardship’ means, with respect to a
25 hospital, the existence of a serious chance of closure,
26 impending bankruptcy, large-scale layoffs, or any

- 1 other situation the Secretary determines appro-
- 2 priate.”.

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