

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 552

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the treatment of critical access hospital services furnished by a critical access hospital located in a noncontiguous State.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) 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 for the treatment of critical access hospital services furnished by a critical access hospital located in a noncontiguous State.

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 “Comprehensive Reim-
5 bursement Initiative Targeting Investment and Care in
6 rural Locations” or the “CRITICAL Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS LO-**
2 **CATED IN A NONCONTIGUOUS STATE.**

3 (a) INPATIENT CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL SERV-
4 ICES.—Section 1814(l)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
5 U.S.C. 1395f(l)(1)) is amended by inserting “(or, in the
6 case of inpatient critical access hospital services furnished
7 on or after January 1, 2026, by a critical access hospital
8 that is located in a noncontiguous State, 105 percent)”
9 after “101 percent”.

10 (b) OUTPATIENT CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL SERV-
11 ICES.—Section 1834(g)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
12 U.S.C. 1395m(g)(1)) is amended by inserting “(or, in the
13 case of outpatient critical access hospital services fur-
14 nished on or after January 1, 2026, by a critical access
15 hospital that is located in a noncontiguous State, 105 per-
16 cent)” after “101 percent”.

17 (c) AMBULANCE SERVICES.—Section 1834(l)(8) of
18 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(8)) is amend-
19 ed by inserting “(or, in the case of ambulance services fur-
20 nished on or after January 1, 2026, by a critical access
21 hospital that is located in a noncontiguous State or by an
22 entity that is owned and operated by a critical access hos-
23 pital that is located in a noncontiguous State, 105 per-
24 cent)” after “101 percent”.

25 (d) SKILLED NURSING FACILITY SERVICES.—Sec-
26 tion 1883(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.

1 1395tt(a)(3)) is amended by inserting “(or, in the case
2 of covered skilled nursing facility services furnished on or
3 after January 1, 2026, under an agreement under this
4 section by a critical access hospital that is located in a
5 noncontiguous State, 105 percent)” after “101 percent”.

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