

Union Calendar No. 806

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8246

[Report No. 118-957]

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the criteria for designation of rural emergency hospitals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2024

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

DECEMBER 27, 2024

Additional sponsors: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. ROSE

DECEMBER 27, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 6, 2024]

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the criteria for designation of rural emergency hospitals.

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 “Second Chances for*
5 *Rural Hospitals Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF RURAL EMER-**
7 **GENCY HOSPITAL UNDER THE MEDICARE**
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(kkk) of the Social Se-*
10 *curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)) is amended—*

11 *(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “is enrolled*
12 *under section 1866(j)” and inserting “except in the*
13 *case of a facility described in paragraph (3)(B)”;*

14 *(2) in paragraph (3)—*

15 *(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the*
16 *period at the end and inserting “; or”;*

17 *(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)*
18 *and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and*
19 *adjusting the margins accordingly;*

20 *(C) by striking “facility that as of” and in-*
21 *serting “facility—*

22 *“(A) that as of”; and*

23 *(D) by adding at the end the following new*
24 *subparagraph:*

25 *“(B) that—*

1 “(i) during the period beginning Janu-
2 ary 1, 2014, and ending December 26,
3 2020—

4 “(I) was a critical access hospital;
5 or

6 “(II) was a subsection (d) hos-
7 pital (as defined in section
8 1886(d)(1)(B)) located in a county (or
9 equivalent unit of local government) in
10 a rural area (as defined in section
11 1886(d)(2)(D)); and

12 “(ii) as of the date of the enactment of
13 this subparagraph, had ceased operations.”;
14 and

15 (3) in paragraph (4)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking
17 “An action plan” and inserting “Except in the
18 case of a facility described in paragraph (3)(B),
19 an action plan”; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting
21 “except in the case of a facility described in
22 paragraph (3)(B),” before “the facility”.

23 (b) AMENDMENTS TO PAYMENT RULES.—Section
24 1834(x) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(x))
25 is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, except that,
2 in the case of a facility described in section
3 1861(kkk)(3)(B) that, as of the date on which such fa-
4 cility submits an application under section 1866(j) to
5 enroll under this title as a rural emergency hospital,
6 is located less than 35 miles away from the nearest
7 hospital, critical access hospital, or rural emergency
8 hospital, such increase shall not apply” before the pe-
9 riod at the end; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “(other
11 than a facility described in section 1861(kkk)(3)(B)
12 that, as of the date on which such facility submits an
13 application under section 1866(j) to enroll under this
14 title as a rural emergency hospital, is located less
15 than 10 miles away from the nearest hospital, critical
16 access hospital, or rural emergency hospital)” after
17 “rural emergency hospital”.

18 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this
19 section shall apply beginning January 1, 2027.

Union Calendar No. 806

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8246

[Report No. 118-9571]

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the criteria for designation of rural emergency hospitals.

DECEMBER 27, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed