

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1357

To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to change the rules relating to enrollment of residents of Puerto Rico under part B of the Medicare program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2011

Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. GUTIERREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to change the rules relating to enrollment of residents of Puerto Rico under part B of the Medicare program.

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 “Puerto Rico Medicare  
5 Part B Equity Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHANGE IN RULES FOR ENROLLMENT OF RESI-**  
2 **DENTS OF PUERTO RICO UNDER PART B OF**  
3 **THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) **EXTENSION OF INITIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—**

5 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 1837(d) of the So-  
6 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395p(d)) is amended  
7 by inserting after “seven months later” the fol-  
8 lowing: “(or 3 years in the case of an individual for  
9 whom subsection (f) does not apply because the indi-  
10 vidual is a resident of Puerto Rico)”.

11 (2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.—**The amendment made  
12 by paragraph (1) shall apply to initial enrollment pe-  
13 riods which begin after the date of the enactment of  
14 this Act or which have not yet ended as of such  
15 date.

16 (b) **LIMITATION ON PART B LATE ENROLLMENT**  
17 **PENALTY.—**

18 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**The first sentence of section  
19 1839(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(b)) is amend-  
20 ed by inserting before the period at the end the fol-  
21 lowing: “, except that in the case of an individual for  
22 whom section 1837(f) did not apply because the in-  
23 dividual is and has remained a resident of Puerto  
24 Rico, the increase under this subsection shall not  
25 apply for longer than 60 months”.

1           (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
2           by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the  
3           enactment of this Act and shall apply to premiums  
4           for months beginning with the first month that be-  
5           gins after such date. In applying such amendment,  
6           premium increases paid for months before such first  
7           month shall be taken into account.

8           (c) ENHANCED OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT OP-  
9           PORTUNITIES.—The Administrator of Social Security, in  
10          consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human  
11          Services, shall implement a plan—

12           (1) to better inform individuals residing in  
13          Puerto Rico who are potential beneficiaries under  
14          part B of the Medicare program about their eligi-  
15          bility to enroll under such part and of the con-  
16          sequences of their late enrollment under such part;  
17          and

18           (2) to facilitate the enrollment of those desiring  
19          to so enroll.

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