

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 560

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure proportional representation of rural interests on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, and to provide for greater transparency in proceedings of those Commissions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. MATHESON) 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

A BILL

To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure proportional representation of rural interests on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, and to provide for greater transparency in proceedings of those Commissions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Representation
3 and Transparency Improvement Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ENSURING PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF**
5 **INTERESTS OF RURAL AREAS ON THE MEDI-**
6 **CARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION**
7 **(MEDPAC) AND GREATER TRANSPARENCY OF**
8 **MEDPAC PROCEEDINGS.**

9 (a) RURAL REPRESENTATION.—Paragraph (2) of
10 section 1805(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1395b–6(c)) is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “con-
13 sistent with subparagraph (E)” after “rural rep-
14 resentatives”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 paragraph:

17 “(E) PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF
18 INTERESTS OF RURAL AREAS.—In order to pro-
19 vide a balance between urban and rural rep-
20 resentatives under subparagraph (A), the pro-
21 portion of members of the Commission who rep-
22 resent the interests of health care providers and
23 Medicare beneficiaries located in rural areas
24 shall be no less than the proportion of the total
25 number of Medicare beneficiaries who reside in
26 rural areas.”.

1 (b) GREATER TRANSPARENCY OF PROCEEDINGS.—
2 Such section is further amended by adding at the end the
3 following new paragraph:

4 “(7) GREATER TRANSPARENCY OF PRO-
5 CEEDINGS.—The Commission shall provide through
6 the Internet or such easy public access to and full
7 and timely public disclosure of its proceedings, such
8 as through the posting of audio or video coverage of
9 its proceedings and of transcripts of its proceedings,
10 as may be practicable within the resources available
11 to the Commission.”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
13 subsection (a) shall apply to appointments to the Medicare
14 Payment Advisory Commission made after the date of en-
15 actment of this Act and the amendment made by sub-
16 section (b) shall apply to proceedings occurring on or after
17 the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment
18 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. ENSURING PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF**
2 **INTERESTS OF RURAL AREAS ON THE MED-**
3 **ICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COM-**
4 **MISSION (MACPAC) AND GREATER TRANS-**
5 **PARENCY OF MACPAC PROCEEDINGS.**

6 (a) RURAL REPRESENTATION.—Paragraph (2) of
7 section 1900(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
8 1396(c)) is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “con-
10 sistent with subparagraph (E)” after “rural rep-
11 resentation”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 paragraph:

14 “(E) PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF
15 INTERESTS OF RURAL AREAS.—In order to pro-
16 vide a balance between urban and rural rep-
17 resentation under subparagraph (A), the pro-
18 portion of members of MACPAC who represent
19 the interests of health care providers and Med-
20 icaid beneficiaries located in rural areas shall be
21 no less than the proportion of the total number
22 of Medicaid beneficiaries who reside in rural
23 areas.”.

24 (b) GREATER TRANSPARENCY OF PROCEEDINGS.—
25 Such section is further amended by adding at the end the
26 following new paragraph:

1 “(7) GREATER TRANSPARENCY OF PRO-
2 CEEDINGS.—The MACPAC shall provide through
3 the Internet for such easy public access to and full
4 and timely public disclosure of its proceedings, such
5 as through the posting of audio or video coverage of
6 its proceedings and of transcripts of its proceedings,
7 as may be practicable within the resources available
8 to MACPAC.”.

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
10 subsection (a) shall apply to appointments to the Medicaid
11 and CHIP Payment and Access Commission made after
12 the date of enactment of this Act and the amendment
13 made by subsection (b) shall apply to proceedings occur-
14 ring on or after the date that is 6 months after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act.

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