

S. 273. A bill to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 492. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and enhance the work opportunity tax credit, to encourage longer-service employment, and to modernize the credit to make it more effective as a hiring incentive for targeted workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 493. A bill to prohibit United States cooperation with the International Criminal Court, the use of the Economic Support Fund to support the Palestinian Authority, and any Federal funding for the ICC; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 494. A bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 495. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 496. A bill to exclude certain amounts relating to compensating victims of the Texas Panhandle fires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 497. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify eligibility for 501(c)(3) status; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 498. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 499. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 500. A bill to reauthorize certain programs under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 501. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy for public health preparedness and response to artificial intelligence threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 502. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State author-

ity to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 503. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and consider the impact of the telecommunications network equipment supply chain on the deployment of universal service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 504. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify certain automatic fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 68. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States shall not deploy United States military assets or personnel to Gaza for purposes of "taking over" Gaza; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 83

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers.

S. 137

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 137, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit the Federal Government from entering into contracts with an entity that discriminates against firearm or ammunition industries, and for other purposes.

S. 158

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 158, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of, or who have committed, sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable.

S. 248

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 248, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend certain in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation flexibilities established in response to COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multicancer early detection screening tests.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to prohibit the use of materials that use the term "West Bank", and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to amend section 1507 of title 18, United States Code, to establish appropriate penalties for obstruction of justice by picketing or parading in or near court buildings or residences of judges, jurors, witnesses, or other court officers.

S. 449

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 449, a bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction projects on certain National Forest System land, and for other purposes.

S. 467

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 481

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 481, a bill to reprogram all remaining unobligated funds from the IRS enforcement account.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 491, a bill to establish the position of Director of Foreign Assistance in the Department of State, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters".

S.J. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 502. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 502

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. RESTORING STATE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE THE 35-MILE RULE FOR CERTAIN MEDICARE CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1820 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking "or" at the end;

(ii) in subclause (II), by inserting "or" at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

"(III) subject to subparagraph (G), is a hospital described in subparagraph (F) and is certified, on or after the date of the enactment of the Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2025, and before the date that is 9 years after the date of enactment of this subclause, by the State as being a necessary provider of health care services to residents in the area;" and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(F) HOSPITAL DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(i)(III), a hospital described in this subparagraph is a hospital that—

"(i) is a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)), a medicare dependent, small rural hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(G)(iv)), a low-volume hospital that in 2021 receives a payment adjustment under section 1886(d)(12), or a subsection (d) hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(1)(B));

"(ii) is located in a rural area, as defined in section 1886(d)(2)(D), or a rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area (as determined under the most recent modification of the Goldsmith Modification, originally published in the Federal Register on February 27, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 6725));

"(iii) (I) is located—

"(aa) in a county that has a percentage of individuals with income at or below the Federal poverty level in 2023 or 2024 that is higher than the national or statewide average in that year; or

"(bb) in a health professional shortage area (as defined in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act); or

"(II) has a percentage of inpatient days of individuals entitled to benefits under part A of this title in 2023 or 2024 that is higher than the national or statewide average in that year;

"(iv) has attested to the Secretary that the hospital—

"(I) was operating as of the date of enactment of this subparagraph; and

"(II) had 2 consecutive years of negative operating margins preceding the date of certification described in subparagraph (B)(i)(III), as defined by the Secretary in the regulations or program instruction issued pursuant to section 2(b) of the Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2025; and

"(v) submits to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, an application for certification of the facility as a critical access hospital, including an attestation outlining—

"(I) the good governance qualifications and strategic plan for multi-year financial solvency of the hospital; and

"(II) the hospital's commitment to open and maintain, for the duration of the hospital's designation as a critical access hospital under this section, a new service line or expanded service capacity for a service that is in high demand or limited supply in the hospital's service area (determined based on the hospital's most recent community health needs assessment under section 501(r)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or other comparable assessment)), such as obstetrics or behavioral health care services.

"(G) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), the Secretary may not under subsection (e) certify pursuant to a certification by a State under subparagraph (B)(i)(III)—

"(I) more than a total of 120 facilities as critical access hospitals; and

"(II) within any one State, more than 5 facilities as critical access hospitals.

"(ii) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall follow the following process in carrying out clause (i) with respect to each year in which the Secretary determines that the limitation under clause (i)(I) has not been reached:

"(I) INITIAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an initial assessment of the total number of hospitals described in paragraph (2)(F).

"(II) INITIAL ALLOCATION.—Of the total number of designations available under clause (i), the Secretary shall allocate 1 for a hospital in each State that the Secretary determines (based on the initial assessment under subclause (I)) has one or more hospitals described in paragraph (2)(F).

"(III) REMAINING ALLOCATION.—Of the total number of designations available under clause (i), after application of subclause (II), the Secretary shall allocate the remaining number on a proportional basis based on the total number of hospitals described in paragraph (2)(F) in each State that are eligible (as determined based on the initial assessment under subclause (I)).

"(iii) SUNSET.—Effective beginning on the date that is 9 years after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary may not certify a hospital as a critical access hospital pursuant to a certification by a State under subparagraph (B)(i)(III).

"(H) INFORMATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALS CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO RURAL HOSPITAL CLOSURE RELIEF ACT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A critical access hospital that is certified under subsection (e) pursuant to a certification by a State under subparagraph (B)(i)(III) shall submit to the Secretary the following at a time, and in a manner, specified by the Secretary:

"(I) REPORTS.—Reports containing such information as the Secretary may specify with respect to items and services furnished as part of the new service line or expanded service capacity for a service as described in the attestation submitted by the critical access hospital under subparagraph (F)(v)(II). To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall align such reporting with other reporting requirements applicable to critical access hospitals under this subsection.

"(II) NOTICE.—If the critical access hospital materially changes the new service line or expanded capacity for a service as so described, notice of such changes along with a plan to satisfactorily maintain access to care (as determined by the Secretary).

"(ii) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines that a critical access hospital described in clause (i) has failed to submit an annual report required under subclause (I) of such clause or a notice required under subclause (II) of such clause, the Secretary may, as the Secretary determines appropriate, revoke the certification of the critical access hospital under subsection (e)."; and

(2) in subsection (e), by inserting ", subject to subsection (c)(2)(G)," after "The Secretary shall".

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue final regulations or program instruction to carry out subsection (a).

(c) CLARIFICATION REGARDING FACILITIES THAT MEET DISTANCE OR OTHER CRITERIA AND APPLICATION OF OTHER CRITERIA.—Nothing in this section shall affect—

(1) the application of criteria for designation as a critical access hospital described in subclause (I) or (II) of section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4(c)(2)(B)(i)); or