

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6399

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a Medicare hospital wage index metropolitan floor, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 29, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a Medicare hospital wage index metropolitan floor, and for other purposes.

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 “Fixing Medicare Hos-
5 pital Payments Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. CREATING A MEDICARE HOSPITAL WAGE INDEX**
2 **METROPOLITAN FLOOR.**

3 Section 1886(d)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)) is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new clause:

6 “(iv) FLOOR ON AREA WAGE INDEX FOR
7 HOSPITALS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS.—

8 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For discharges
9 occurring on or after October 1, 2017, the
10 area wage index applicable under this sub-
11 paragraph to any hospital which is located
12 in a metropolitan area (as defined in sub-
13 clause (II)) may not be less than 0.94.

14 “(II) METROPOLITAN AREA DE-
15 FINED.—For purposes of this clause, the
16 term ‘metropolitan area’ means a large
17 urban area (as defined in paragraph
18 (2)(D)) that has a population of not less
19 than 2,000,000 individuals, as determined
20 by the Secretary based on the most recent
21 available population data published with
22 respect to such area by the Bureau of the
23 Census.

24 “(III) NO EXPENDITURES OVER OTH-
25 ERWISE-APPLICABLE FISCAL YEAR 2018
26 LEVELS.—The Secretary shall implement

1 this clause in a manner that ensures that
2 the aggregate payments made under this
3 section to all hospitals located in metro-
4 politan areas for discharges occurring in a
5 fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year
6 2018) are not greater than the aggregate
7 payments that would have been made
8 under this section to such hospitals for
9 such discharges if such discharges had oc-
10 curred in fiscal year 2018 and if this
11 clause had not applied with respect to such
12 fiscal year 2018. The Secretary shall im-
13 plement the preceding sentence by estab-
14 lishing, pursuant to rulemaking and appli-
15 cable with respect to discharges occurring
16 on or after October 1, 2017, a maximum
17 area wage index that shall be applicable
18 under this subparagraph to any hospital
19 located in a metropolitan area.”.

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