

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6855

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to codify and permanently extend the Medicare hospital wage index imputed rural floor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. PALLONE) 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 codify and permanently extend the Medicare hospital wage index imputed rural floor.

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. IMPUTED FLOOR ON THE AREA WAGE INDEX.**

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

7 “(iv) FLOOR ON WAGE INDEX FOR
8 HOSPITALS IN ALL-URBAN STATES.—

1 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes
2 of applying the area wage index appli-
3 cable under this subparagraph, for
4 discharges occurring on or after Octo-
5 ber 1, 2018, the Secretary shall estab-
6 lish a minimum wage index for all-
7 urban States (as defined in subclause
8 (IV)).

9 “(II) MINIMUM WAGE INDEX.—
10 For purposes of subclause (I), the
11 minimum wage index for all-urban
12 States shall be established by the Sec-
13 retary using the methodology de-
14 scribed in section 412.64(h)(4) of title
15 42, Code of Federal Regulations, as in
16 effect for fiscal year 2018.

17 “(III) ADMINISTRATION.—The
18 Secretary shall administer the min-
19 imum wage index described in this
20 clause in the same manner described
21 in section 3141 of Public Law 111–
22 148 (through a uniform, national ad-
23 justment to the area wage index).

24 “(IV) ALL-URBAN STATE DE-
25 FINED.—In this clause, the term ‘all-

1 urban State' means a State in which
2 there are no rural areas (as defined in
3 subsection (d)(2)(D) of section 1886
4 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1395ww(d)(2)(D))), or a State in
6 which there are no hospitals classified
7 as rural under such section.”.

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