

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2037

To amend title XVIII to strengthen ambulance services furnished under part B of the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII to strengthen ambulance services furnished 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Serv-
6 ices Act of 2021”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PROTECT ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY AMBULANCE CARE

Sec. 101. Protecting patient access to ground ambulance services.

TITLE II—PROTECT ACCESS TO GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES
IN RURAL AMERICA

Sec. 201. Protecting access to ambulance services in rural and low population density areas.

1 **TITLE I—PROTECT ACCESS TO**
2 **HIGH QUALITY AMBULANCE**
3 **CARE**

4 **SEC. 101. PROTECTING PATIENT ACCESS TO GROUND AM-**
5 **BULANCE SERVICES.**

6 Section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 1395m(l)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (12)(A), by striking “2023”
9 and inserting “2028”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (13)(A), by striking “2023”
11 each place it appears and inserting “2028” in each
12 such place.

13 **TITLE II—PROTECT ACCESS TO**
14 **GROUND AMBULANCE SERV-**
15 **ICES IN RURAL AMERICA**

16 **SEC. 201. PROTECTING ACCESS TO AMBULANCE SERVICES**
17 **IN RURAL AND LOW POPULATION DENSITY**
18 **AREAS.**

19 Section 1834(l)(12) of the Social Security Act (42
20 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(12)) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following new subparagraphs:

1 “(C) EXCEPTION FOR RURAL AND QUALI-
2 FIED RURAL AREAS.—The Secretary shall deem
3 an area designated as a rural or qualified rural
4 area under this paragraph that would otherwise
5 no longer receive such designation to retain its
6 previous designated status if there are 1,000 or
7 fewer individuals per square mile in the area.

8 “(D) RIGHT TO APPEAL RURAL AREAS
9 AND QUALIFIED RURAL AREAS.—The Secretary
10 shall establish an administrative appeals proc-
11 ess to allow ambulance services providers and
12 suppliers to seek reconsideration of a change in
13 a ZIP code’s status as a rural or qualified rural
14 area during the first 12 months after the Sec-
15 retary finalizes a change in the designation
16 made under this paragraph.”.

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