

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 578

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

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 “ALS Disability Insur-
3 ance Access Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF WAITING PERIOD FOR SOCIAL SE-**
5 **CURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS**
6 **FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH**
7 **AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 223(a)(1) of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(a)(1)) is amended in the
10 matter following subparagraph (E) by striking “or (ii)”
11 and inserting “(ii) in the case of an individual who has
12 been medically determined to have amyotrophic lateral
13 sclerosis, for each month beginning with the first month
14 during all of which the individual is under a disability and
15 in which the individual becomes entitled to such insurance
16 benefits, or (iii)”.

17 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
18 this section shall apply with respect to applications for dis-
19 ability insurance benefits filed after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act.

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