

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5222

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide attending physicians greater authority in determining whether a medicare beneficiary is eligible for hospice care under the medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2000

Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. HANSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide attending physicians greater authority in determining whether a medicare beneficiary is eligible for hospice care under 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. REVISION OF DEFINITION OF TERMINALLY ILL**
2 **WITH RESPECT TO HOSPICE CARE.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1861(dd)(3)(A) of the So-
4 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(3)(A)) is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 “(3)(A) An individual is considered to be ‘terminally
7 ill’ if—

8 “(i) the individual has been diagnosed as having
9 a terminal illness; and

10 “(ii) the individual’s attending physician deter-
11 mines that hospice care furnished under a hospice
12 program is appropriate for the individual.”.

13 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
14 subsection (a) applies with respect to individuals making
15 initial elections for hospice care under the medicare pro-
16 gram on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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