

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2674

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include coverage under the medicare program for rehabilitation services provided by State vocational rehabilitation agencies to older individuals who are blind.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2001

Mr. FROST (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LAFALCE, Ms. RIVERS, and Mr. KILDEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and 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 include coverage under the medicare program for rehabilitation services provided by State vocational rehabilitation agencies to older individuals who are blind.

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 “Medicare Equity Act
5 for the Blind of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF REHABILITATION SERV-**
2 **ICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE**
3 **BLIND.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)), as amended by sec-
6 tions 102(a) and 105(a) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and
7 SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000
8 (as enacted into law by section 1(a)(6) of Public Law 106–
9 554), is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (s)(2)—

11 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
12 paragraph (U);

13 (B) by adding “and” at the end of sub-
14 paragraph (V); and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new
16 subparagraph:

17 “(W) rehabilitation services for older individuals
18 who are blind;” and

19 (1) by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 section:

21 “Rehabilitation Services for Older Blind Individuals

22 “(ww) The term ‘rehabilitation services for older indi-
23 viduals who are blind’ means independent living services
24 (described in section 752(e) of the Rehabilitation Act of
25 1973) that—

1 “(1) are approved by the Secretary in regula-
2 tions; and

3 “(2) are provided to an older individual who is
4 blind (as defined in section 751 of such Act); and

5 “(3) are provided—

6 “(A) by a State agency designated under
7 section 101(a)(2) of such Act; or

8 “(B) by another entity that is acting under
9 the supervision of that State agency and that—

10 “(i) is on a list of entities approved by
11 that State agency; or

12 “(ii) is selected by the older individual
13 and is approved (through an application
14 process or otherwise) by that State agen-
15 cy.”.

16 (b) PAYMENT.—Section 1833(a)(1) of such Act (42
17 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)), as amended by sections 105(c) and
18 223(e) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits
19 Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (as enacted into
20 law by section 1(a)(6) of Public Law 106–554), is
21 amended—

22 (1) by striking “and” before “(U)”; and

23 (2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end
24 the following: “, and (V) with respect to rehabilita-
25 tion services for older individuals who are blind (as

1 defined in section 1861(ww)), the amount paid shall
2 be 80 percent of the lesser of the actual charge for
3 the services or the amount determined under the fee
4 schedule established for purposes of this clause”.

5 (c) APPLICATION OF LIMITS ON BILLING.—Section
6 1842(b)(18)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)),
7 as amended by section 105(d) of the Medicare, Medicaid,
8 and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of
9 2000 (as enacted into law by section 1(a)(6) of Public Law
10 106–554), is amended by adding at the end the following
11 new clause:

12 “(vii) An individual or entity providing rehabili-
13 tation services for older individuals.”.

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section apply to services furnished on or after Janu-
16 ary 1, 2002.

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