

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3975

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for low vision devices under Medicare, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2014

Mr. OWENS 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 provide coverage for low vision devices under Medicare, and for other purposes.

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. MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR LOW VISION DE-**
4 **VICES.**

5 (a) COVERAGE AS DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIP-
6 MENT.—Section 1861(n) of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 1395x(n)) is amended by inserting “low vision de-

1 vices (as defined in subsection (iii)(1)),” after “hospital
2 beds,”.

3 (b) LOW VISION DEVICES DEFINED.—Section 1861
4 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

6 “Low Vision Device; Low Vision

7 “(iii)(1) The term ‘low vision device’ means a device
8 that—

9 “(A) is an electronic optical device with one or
10 more lenses that operates to modify or enlarge im-
11 ages;

12 “(B) is prescribed by an ophthalmologist or op-
13 tometrist to an individual with low vision in order to
14 address such low vision; and

15 “(C) meets such other requirements as the Sec-
16 retary may prescribe.

17 “(2) The term ‘low vision’ means macular degenera-
18 tion, glaucoma, or other visual impairment that—

19 “(A) cannot be corrected by standard eye-
20 glasses, contact lenses, medication, or surgery; and

21 “(B) interferes with the ability of the individual
22 involved to perform everyday activities (as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary).”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section shall apply with respect to low vision devices
3 furnished on or after January 1, 2016.

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