

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4385

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2014

Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mrs. CAPPS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas.

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. MATERNITY CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL**
4 **SHORTAGE AREAS.**

5 Section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 254e) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(k)(1) The Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
9 trator of the Health Resources and Services Administra-
10 tion, shall designate maternity care health professional

1 shortage areas in the States and at least annually there-
2 after review and, as necessary, revise such designations.

3 “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), and in applying
4 subsection (b) pursuant to paragraph (4), the Secretary
5 shall seek input from relevant provider organizations, in-
6 cluding medical societies, organizations representing med-
7 ical facilities, and other organizations with expertise in
8 maternity care.

9 “(3) In applying subsection (d), pursuant to para-
10 graph (4), the Secretary shall collect and publish in the
11 Federal Register data on health care professional shortage
12 areas based on professional category of maternal health
13 professionals providing full scope maternity health care by
14 provider type as well as geographic region. Such data shall
15 be presented in a manner to compare availability and need
16 of such professionals by such professional category and ge-
17 ographic region.

18 “(4) The provisions of subsections (b), (c), (d), (e),
19 (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) (other than (j)(1)(B)) of this sec-
20 tion shall apply to the designation of a maternity care
21 health professional shortage area under this subsection in
22 a similar manner and extent as such provisions apply to
23 the designation of health professional shortage areas
24 under subsection (a), except—

1 “(A) in applying subsection (b)(3), the ref-
2 erence in such subsection to ‘physicians’ shall be
3 deemed to be a reference to physicians and other
4 health professionals as providing maternity care eli-
5 gible for loan repayment under this part who provide
6 full scope maternity care;

7 “(B) in applying subsection (d)—

8 “(i) the reference in paragraph (2) of such
9 subsection to ‘July 1 of 1991’ shall be deemed
10 to be a reference to ‘July 1 of 2016’; and

11 “(ii) the descriptive list required under
12 such paragraph, with respect to a maternity
13 care health professional shortage area des-
14 ignated under paragraph (1), shall include—

15 “(I) population groups in the area
16 that would benefit from full scope mater-
17 nity care health services; and

18 “(II) the providers and medical facili-
19 ties that provide such services to such
20 groups in such area; and

21 “(C) in applying such provisions of subsections
22 (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j), a reference to
23 an area, population group, or facility shall be
24 deemed to be a reference to an area or population
25 group described in paragraph (5).

1 “(5) For purposes of this subsection:

2 “(A) The term ‘maternity care health profes-
3 sional shortage area’ means—

4 “(i) an area in an urban or rural area
5 (which need not conform to the geographic
6 boundaries of a political subdivision and which
7 is a rational area for the delivery of health serv-
8 ices) which the Secretary determines has a
9 shortage of providers of full scope maternity
10 care health services;

11 “(ii) an area in an urban or rural area
12 (which need not conform to the geographic
13 boundaries of a political subdivision and which
14 is a rational area for the delivery of health serv-
15 ices) which the Secretary determines has a
16 shortage of hospital or birth center labor and
17 delivery units; or

18 “(iii) a population group which the Sec-
19 retary determines has such a shortage of mater-
20 nal providers or facilities.

21 “(B) The term ‘full scope maternity care health
22 services’ includes during labor care, birthing, pre-
23 natal care, and postpartum care.

24 “(C) The term ‘medical facility’ has the mean-
25 ing given such term in subsection (a)(2) and in-

1 includes a freestanding birth center, as defined in sec-
2 tion 1905(1)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act.”.

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