

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6281

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to codify and permanently extend the Medicare hospital wage index imputed rural floor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2020

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. KIM, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. SHERRILL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to codify and permanently extend the Medicare hospital wage index imputed rural floor.

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 Wage Index
5 Parity Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPUTED FLOOR ON THE AREA WAGE INDEX.**

2 Section 1886(d)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following new clause:

5 “(iv) FLOOR ON WAGE INDEX FOR
6 HOSPITALS IN ALL-URBAN STATES.—

7 “(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes
8 of applying the area wage index appli-
9 cable under this subparagraph, for
10 discharges occurring on or after Octo-
11 ber 1, 2018, the Secretary shall estab-
12 lish a minimum wage index for all-
13 urban States (as defined in subclause
14 (IV)).

15 “(II) MINIMUM WAGE INDEX.—
16 For purposes of subclause (I), the
17 minimum wage index for all-urban
18 States shall be established by the Sec-
19 retary using the methodology de-
20 scribed in section 412.64(h)(4) of title
21 42, Code of Federal Regulations, as in
22 effect for fiscal year 2018.

23 “(III) ADMINISTRATION.—The
24 Secretary shall administer the min-
25 imum wage index described in this
26 clause in the same manner described

1 in section 3141 of Public Law 111–
2 148 (through a uniform, national ad-
3 justment to the area wage index).

4 “(IV) ALL-URBAN STATE DE-
5 FINED.—In this clause, the term ‘all-
6 urban State’ means a State in which
7 there are no rural areas (as defined in
8 subsection (d)(2)(D) of section 1886
9 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 1395ww(d)(2)(D))), or a State in
11 which there are no hospitals classified
12 as rural under such section.”.

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