

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2518

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise payment for
air ambulance services under the Medicare program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2025

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise
payment for air ambulance services 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Air Ambu-
5 lance Services for Americans Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO MEDICARE PAYMENT SYSTEM**
7 **FOR AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES.**

8 Section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1395m(l)) is amended by adding at the end the following
10 new paragraph:

1 “(18) IMPROVEMENTS TO MEDICARE PAYMENT
2 SYSTEM FOR AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may re-
4 vise the fee schedule otherwise established
5 under this subsection for air ambulance services
6 based on data described in subparagraph (B)
7 and data collected under subparagraph (C).

8 “(B) DATA DESCRIBED.—For purposes of
9 subparagraph (A), the data described in this
10 subparagraph is data collected pursuant to the
11 provisions of, and amendments made by, section
12 106 of division BB of the Consolidated Appro-
13 priations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

14 “(C) ADDITIONAL DATA COLLECTION.—
15 The Secretary shall require, once every 3 years,
16 providers of services and suppliers furnishing
17 air ambulance services to submit to the Sec-
18 retary—

19 “(i) data relating to the fixed and op-
20 erated costs per air ambulance base attrib-
21 utable to furnishing air ambulance services
22 to individuals enrolled under this part and
23 data relating to the utilization of such
24 services by such individuals;

1 “(ii) data relating to the revenue ob-
 2 tained by such providers and suppliers
 3 under this part attributable to the fur-
 4 nishing of such services; and

5 “(iii) any other information deter-
 6 mined appropriate by the Secretary.

7 “(D) CONSULTATION.—In the case that
 8 the Secretary elects to revise the fee schedule
 9 for air ambulance services under subparagraph
 10 (A), the Secretary shall consider stakeholder
 11 input in a process that is transparent and ap-
 12 propriately considers data described in subpara-
 13 graph (B) and data collected under subpara-
 14 graph (C).”.

15 **SEC. 3. TIMELY FINALIZATION OF AIR AMBULANCE DATA**
 16 **COLLECTION RULE.**

17 Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment
 18 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
 19 shall finalize and publish a final rule implementing the air
 20 ambulance data collection requirements under section 106
 21 of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,
 22 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

1 **SEC. 4. GAO STUDY ON EMERGENCY AIR AMBULANCE**
2 **COSTS.**

3 Not later than 1 year after the date on which data
4 begins to be collected pursuant to the provisions of, and
5 amendments made by, section 106 of division BB of the
6 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–
7 260), the Comptroller General of the United States shall
8 submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and
9 the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee
10 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
11 tives, a report detailing—

12 (1) the average annual operating costs per air
13 ambulance base;

14 (2) the average cost per transport by air ambu-
15 lance;

16 (3) the payor mix for air ambulance services;

17 (4) the adequacy of Medicare payments for
18 such services;

19 (5) geographic variations in the cost of fur-
20 nishing such services; and

21 (6) recommendations on improving the fee
22 schedule under section 1834(l) of the Social Security
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)) for air ambulance serv-
24 ices.

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