

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10086

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to codify the Medicare low-wage index hospital policy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Mr. FERGUSON (for himself and Mr. GRIFFITH) 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 the Medicare low-wage index hospital policy.

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 “Save Struggling Hos-
5 pitals Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CODIFICATION OF THE MEDICARE LOW-WAGE**
7 **INDEX HOSPITAL POLICY.**

8 Section 1886(d)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42
9 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)) is amended—

1 (1) in clause (i), in the first sentence, by strik-
2 ing “or (iv)” and inserting “, (iv), or (v)”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new
4 clause:

5 “(v) LOW-WAGE HOSPITALS.—For
6 discharges occurring on or after October 1,
7 2019, the area wage index applicable under
8 this subparagraph for a fiscal year to a
9 hospital with an area wage index below the
10 25th percentile area wage index shall be
11 increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ of the difference between
12 the otherwise applicable final area wage
13 index for such fiscal year for such hospital
14 and the 25th percentile area wage index
15 for such fiscal year across all hospitals.
16 Pursuant to the fourth sentence of clause
17 (i), the preceding sentence shall be applied
18 in a budget neutral manner.”.

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