

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2573

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. DESJARLAIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 improve home health payment reforms 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 “Home Health Payment
5 Innovation Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO MEDICARE INNOVATIONS AND**
2 **MANAGED CARE RELATED TO HOME HEALTH**
3 **SERVICES.**

4 (a) EXPANDED WAIVERS IN SHARED SAVINGS PRO-
5 GRAMS.—Section 1899(f) of the Social Security Act (42
6 U.S.C. 395jjj(f)), is amended by adding at the end the
7 following: “Beginning not later than January 1, 2020, the
8 Secretary shall include a waiver of the ‘confined to his
9 home’ requirement under sections 1814(a)(2)(C) and
10 1835(a)(2)(A) in one or more programs under this sec-
11 tion.”.

12 (b) FLEXIBILITY IN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
13 PLANS.—Section 1852 of the Social Security Act (42
14 U.S.C. 1395ww–2) is amended by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(o) FLEXIBILITY IF PROVIDING HOME HEALTH
17 SERVICES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
18 any MA organization shall be permitted to waive the ‘con-
19 fined to his home’ requirement in the home health services
20 benefit when the organization determines it is in the best
21 interest of the enrollee.”.

22 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO HOME HEALTH PAYMENT RE-**
23 **FORMS UNDER MEDICARE.**

24 (a) APPLICATION OF BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—Sec-
25 tion 1895(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
26 1395fff(b)(3)), as amended by section 51001(a)(2) of the

1 Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123),
2 is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (A)(iv), in the fourth sen-
4 tence—

5 (A) by striking “shall make” and inserting
6 “shall not make”; and

7 (B) by striking “and shall provide a de-
8 scription” and all that follows through the pe-
9 riod and inserting a period; and

10 (2) in subparagraph (D)—

11 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by strik-
12 ing “ASSUMPTIONS” and inserting “EVIDENCE”;

13 (B) in clause (i)—

14 (i) by striking “differences between
15 assumed” and all that follows through
16 “and actual”;

17 (ii) by inserting “attributable to the
18 implementation of paragraphs (2)(B) and
19 (4)(B)” after “behavior changes”; and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing: “The Secretary shall publish the
22 determination under this clause with re-
23 spect to an applicable year, including a de-
24 scription of the evidence used to make such
25 determination, in the notice and comment

1 rulemaking to update the prospective pay-
2 ment system under this subsection for such
3 year. For purposes of the preceding sen-
4 tence, the term ‘evidence’ means the most
5 recent data after January 1, 2020, that re-
6 flects the difference between real changes
7 in case mix and behavioral changes relat-
8 ing to implementation of the provisions of
9 and amendments made by section 51001 of
10 the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public
11 Law 115–123).”;

12 (C) in clause (ii), by inserting “attrib-
13 utable to the implementation of paragraphs
14 (2)(B) and (4)(B)” after “expenditures”; and

15 (D) in clause (iii)—

16 (i) by adding “attributable to the im-
17 plementation of paragraphs (2)(B) and
18 (4)(B)” after “expenditures”; and

19 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing: “If such a temporary increase or
21 decrease does not exceed 2.00 percent in
22 any given year, the Secretary shall apply
23 the entire increase or decrease in the next
24 calendar year payment update. In the case
25 where such a temporary increase or de-

1 crease exceeds 2.00 percent, the Secretary
2 shall phase in the temporary increase or
3 decrease in equal amounts not to exceed
4 2.00 percent in any given year through the
5 respective calendar year payment updates.
6 Notwithstanding the preceding sentence,
7 the Secretary shall complete any such
8 phase-in adjustment no later than 2029
9 and shall have the authority, after 2025, to
10 waive the phase-in requirement as nec-
11 essary to achieve budget neutrality by
12 2029. Prior to implementing such phase-in
13 adjustments after 2025, the Secretary
14 shall first receive certification from the Of-
15 fice of the Actuary of the Centers for
16 Medicare & Medicaid Services that any
17 such adjustments are appropriate.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-
20 ment of such section 51001(a)(2).

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