

Union Calendar No. 803

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8245

[Report No. 118-954]

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish the Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program to provide grants to rural hospitals for purposes of ensuring local access to services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2024

Mr. FEENSTRA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

DECEMBER 27, 2024

Additional sponsor: Mr. FONG

DECEMBER 27, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 6, 2024]

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish the Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program to provide grants to rural hospitals for purposes of ensuring local access to services.

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 “Rural Hospital Sta-*
5 *bilization Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL HOSPITAL STABILIZATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 *Section 1820(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.*
8 *1395i–4(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following*
9 *new paragraph:*

10 *“(8) RURAL HOSPITAL STABILIZATION PILOT*
11 *PROGRAM.—*

12 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1,*
13 *2026, the Secretary, acting through the Director*
14 *of the Office of Rural Health Policy, shall award*
15 *grants to—*

16 *“(i) hospitals, critical access hospitals,*
17 *and rural emergency hospitals that are lo-*
18 *cated in a rural area, as such term is used*
19 *for purposes of section 711 of this Act (in*
20 *this paragraph referred to as ‘rural hos-*
21 *pitals’) that have submitted applications to*
22 *the Secretary, for purposes of assisting such*
23 *hospitals in ensuring local access to services;*
24 *and*

1 “(ii) *experienced technical assistance*
2 *providers that have submitted applications*
3 *to the Secretary, for purposes of assisting*
4 *such rural hospitals in planning to apply*
5 *for grants under this paragraph and using*
6 *any amounts received under such a grant.*

7 “(B) *PRIORITIZATION FACTORS.*—*In mak-*
8 *ing grants to rural hospitals under this para-*
9 *graph for a fiscal year (and determining the*
10 *amount of each such grant), the Secretary shall*
11 *consider the following factors:*

12 “(i) *The average daily census of the*
13 *hospital.*

14 “(ii) *The distance between the hospital*
15 *and the next nearest hospital.*

16 “(iii) *The financial circumstances of*
17 *the hospital, as determined by such hos-*
18 *pital’s most recently filed Medicare cost re-*
19 *port (or other applicable source of informa-*
20 *tion).*

21 “(iv) *The risk that the hospital will*
22 *close.*

23 “(v) *The risk that the hospital will re-*
24 *duce or stop offering a class of services.*

25 “(C) *USE OF FUNDS.*—

1 “(i) *HOSPITALS.*—Amounts received by
2 a rural hospital under a grant under this
3 paragraph shall be used to sustain, enhance,
4 or expand the classes of services offered by
5 such hospital, or to begin offering a new
6 class of service, and may be used for—

7 “(I) minor renovations to build-
8 ings;

9 “(II) training with respect to the
10 delivery of new or existing services;

11 “(III) recruiting or hiring new
12 staff or supplementing compensation of
13 existing staff; and

14 “(IV) equipment acquisition or
15 refurbishment.

16 “(ii) *EXPERIENCED TECHNICAL AS-*
17 *SISTANCE PROVIDERS.*—Amounts received
18 by an experienced technical assistance pro-
19 vider under a grant under this paragraph
20 shall be used to assist rural hospitals—

21 “(I) in applying for a grant
22 under this paragraph; and

23 “(II) with respect to a rural hos-
24 pital that has been awarded a grant
25 under this paragraph, in using

1 *amounts received under such grant in*
2 *accordance with the requirements of*
3 *clause (i).*

4 “(D) *REPORTS TO CONGRESS.*—

5 “(i) *INITIAL REPORT.*—*Not later than*
6 *January 1, 2029, the Secretary shall submit*
7 *to Congress a report on the grants awarded*
8 *under this paragraph that includes the fol-*
9 *lowing information:*

10 “(I) *The names of all experienced*
11 *technical assistance providers that re-*
12 *ceived a grant under this paragraph*
13 *and, with respect to each such experi-*
14 *enced technical assistance provider, an*
15 *analysis of the use of the amounts re-*
16 *ceived under such grant.*

17 “(II) *The names and locations of*
18 *all rural hospitals that received a*
19 *grant under this paragraph and, with*
20 *respect to each such hospital—*

21 “(aa) *the use of the amounts*
22 *received under such grant;*

23 “(bb) *an analysis of the fi-*
24 *nancial circumstances of such hos-*
25 *pital, as determined by such hos-*

1 *pital's most recently filed Medi-*
2 *care cost report (or other applica-*
3 *ble source of information)—*

4 *“(AA) at the time of the*
5 *receipt of such grant; and*

6 *“(BB) at the time the*
7 *report is submitted under*
8 *this clause;*

9 *“(cc) an analysis of the class-*
10 *es of services offered by the hos-*
11 *pital—*

12 *“(AA) prior to the re-*
13 *ceipt of such grant; and*

14 *“(BB) following such re-*
15 *ceipt, as determined at the*
16 *time the report is submitted*
17 *under this clause; and*

18 *“(dd) an analysis of any new*
19 *classes of services offered by the*
20 *hospital following the receipt of*
21 *such grant.*

22 *“(ii) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—Not later*
23 *than 2 years after the initial report is sub-*
24 *mitted under clause (i), the Secretary shall*
25 *submit to Congress a subsequent report on*

1 *the grants awarded under this paragraph*
2 *that includes updates to the information de-*
3 *scribed in subclauses (I) and (II) of such*
4 *clause.*

5 “(E) *FUNDING.*—*There are authorized to be*
6 *appropriated from the Federal Hospital Insur-*
7 *ance Trust Fund under section 1817 for making*
8 *grants under this paragraph, \$20,000,000 for*
9 *each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029, to re-*
10 *main available until expended.”.*

Union Calendar No. 803

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8245

[Report No. 118-954]

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish the Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program to provide grants to rural hospitals for purposes of ensuring local access to services.

DECEMBER 27, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed