

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1354

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2015

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

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## A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients, and for other purposes.

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 Patient Ac-  
5 cess to Hospice Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN ASSIST-**  
 2 **ANTS AS ATTENDING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE**  
 3 **HOSPICE PATIENTS.**

4 (a) RECOGNITION OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AS-  
 5 SISTANTS AS ATTENDING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE HOS-  
 6 PICE PATIENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(dd)(3)(B) of  
 8 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(3)(B))  
 9 is amended—

10 (A) by striking “or nurse” and inserting “,  
 11 the nurse”; and

12 (B) by inserting “, or the physician assist-  
 13 ant (as defined in such subsection)” after “sub-  
 14 section (aa)(5))”.

15 (2) CLARIFICATION OF HOSPICE ROLE OF PHY-  
 16 SICIAN ASSISTANTS.—Section 1814(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of  
 17 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
 18 1395f(a)(7)(A)(i)(I)) is amended by inserting “or a  
 19 physician assistant” after “a nurse practitioner”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 21 this section shall apply to items and services furnished on  
 22 or after January 1, 2016.

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