112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Rural Hospital Access Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''October 1, 2012'' and inserting ''October 1, 2013''; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking ''October 1, 2012'' and inserting ''October 1, 2013''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) EXTENSION OF TARGET AMOUNT.—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''October 1, 2012'' and inserting ''October 1, 2013''; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking ''through fiscal year 2012'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2013''.

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by striking ''through fiscal year 2012'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2013''.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE INCREASED PAYMENTS UNDER THE MEDICARE LOW-VOLUME HOSPITAL PROGRAM.

Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2013'' and inserting ''2014'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking ''and 2012'' each place it appears and inserting '', 2012, and 2013''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and 2012'' and inserting '', 2012, and 2013''.