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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the criteria for designation of rural emergency hospitals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ARRINGTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify the criteria for designation of rural emergency hospitals.

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 “Second Chances for
5 Rural Hospitals Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF RURAL EMER-**
2 **GENCY HOSPITAL UNDER THE MEDICARE**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(kkk) of the Social
5 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “is enrolled
7 under section 1866(j)” and inserting “except in the
8 case of a facility described in paragraph (3)(B)”;

9 (2) in paragraph (3)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
11 period at the end and inserting “; or”;

12 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
13 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
14 adjusting the margins accordingly;

15 (C) by striking “facility that as of” and in-
16 serting “facility—

17 “(A) that as of”; and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following new
19 subparagraph:

20 “(B) that—

21 “(i) during the period beginning Jan-
22 uary 1, 2014, and ending December 26,
23 2020—

24 “(I) was a critical access hos-
25 pital; or

1 “(II) was a subsection (d) hos-
2 pital (as defined in section
3 1886(d)(1)(B)) located in a county
4 (or equivalent unit of local govern-
5 ment) in a rural area (as defined in
6 section 1886(d)(2)(D)); and

7 “(ii) as of the date of the enactment
8 of this subparagraph, had ceased oper-
9 ations.”; and

10 (3) in paragraph (4)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking
12 “An action plan” and inserting “Except in the
13 case of a facility described in paragraph (3)(B),
14 an action plan”; and

15 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting
16 “except in the case of a facility described in
17 paragraph (3)(B),” before “the facility”.

18 (b) AMENDMENTS TO PAYMENT RULES.—Section
19 1834(x) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(x))
20 is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, except
22 that, in the case of a facility described in section
23 1861(kkk)(3)(B) that, as of the date on which such
24 facility submits an application under section 1866(j)
25 to enroll under this title as a rural emergency hos-

1 pital, is located less than 35 miles away from the
2 nearest hospital, critical access hospital, or rural
3 emergency hospital, such increase shall not apply”
4 before the period at the end; and

5 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “(other
6 than a facility described in section 1861(kkk)(3)(B)
7 that, as of the date on which such facility submits
8 an application under section 1866(j) to enroll under
9 this title as a rural emergency hospital, is located
10 less than 10 miles away from the nearest hospital,
11 critical access hospital, or rural emergency hos-
12 pital)” after “rural emergency hospital”.

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall apply beginning January 1, 2027.