



REPORT

To: President Fergus Laughridge and Executive Committee

From: Robert Waller, Governmental Affairs Committee

Review: H.R. 6331

BACKGROUND

Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate [\[H.R.6331.ENR\]](#)

LANGUAGEⁱ

Sec. 146. Improved Access To Ambulance Services.

(a) Extension of Increased Medicare Payments for Ground Ambulance Services- Section 1834(l)(13) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(13)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)--

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting `and for such services furnished on or after July 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2010' after `2007,';

(B) in clause (i), by inserting `(or 3 percent if such service is furnished on or after July 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2010)' after `2 percent'; and

(C) in clause (ii), by inserting `(or 2 percent if such service is furnished on or after July 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2010)' after `1 percent'; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)--

(A) in the heading, by striking `2006' and inserting `APPLICABLE PERIOD'; and

(B) by inserting `applicable' before `period'.

(b) Air Ambulance Payment Improvements-

(1) Treatment Of Certain Areas For Payment For Air Ambulance Services Under The Ambulance Fee Schedule- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of making payments under section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)) for air ambulance services furnished during the period beginning on July 1, 2008, and ending on December 31, 2009, any area that was designated as a rural area for purposes of making payments under such section for air ambulance services furnished on December 31, 2006, shall

be treated as a rural area for purposes of making payments under such section for air ambulance services furnished during such period.

(2) Clarification Regarding Satisfaction of Requirement Of Medically Necessary-

(A) In General- Section 1834(l)(14)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(14)(B)(i)) is amended by striking 'reasonably determines or certifies' and inserting 'certifies or reasonably determines'.

(B) Effective Date- The amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall apply to services furnished on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

REASONⁱⁱ

To make amendments to the Social Security Act, Section 1834(l)(13):

(13) Temporary increase for ground ambulance services.

(A) In general.—After computing the rates with respect to ground ambulance services under the other applicable provisions of this subsection, in the case of such services furnished on or after July 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2007, for which the transportation originates in—

(i) a rural area described in paragraph (9) or in a rural census tract described in such paragraph, the fee schedule established under this section shall provide that the rate for the service otherwise established, after the application of any increase under paragraphs (11) and (12), shall be increased by 2 percent; and

(ii) an area not described in clause (i), the fee schedule established under this subsection shall provide that the rate for the service otherwise established, after the application of any increase under paragraph (11), shall be increased by 1 percent.

(B) Application of increased payments after 2006.—The increased payments under subparagraph (A) shall not be taken into account in calculating payments for services furnished after the period specified in such subparagraph.

A copy of the Social Security Act can be found at www.socialsecurity.gov/OP_Home/ssact/ssact.htm

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

None. There are no revenue or expenses to be incurred by NASEMSO nor the EMS services/attendants.

RESPONSIBILITIES

None. There would be no long lasting responsibilities to be undertaken by NASEMSO.

IMPLEMENTATION

Medicare reimbursement (based on population density in area / ranking of areas / qualified rural areas would increase by 3 percent for those rural designated areas and 2 percent for those areas not designated rural.

LONG RANGE

Amendments to the Social Security Act would take effect on July 1, 2008 and expire on January 1, 2010. Once expired, those in rural areas would return to 2 percent and those area not designated rural would return to 1 percent

CONCLUSION

The above report was developed by the Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee to provide information on the above bill. There was no request received to endorse or support the bill by NASEMSO.

ⁱ Information derived from www.thomas.gov

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