

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6596

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the eligibility for the rural emergency hospital designation under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. SCHMIDT (for himself and Mr. ESTES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the eligibility for the rural emergency hospital designation under the Medicare program.

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. ADJUSTING ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL EMER-**
4 **GENCY HOSPITAL DESIGNATION UNDER**
5 **MEDICARE.**

6 Section 1861(kkk)(3) of the Social Security Act (42
7 U.S.C. 1395x(kkk)(3)) is amended—

8 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
9 by striking “as of” and inserting “, at any point

1 during the period beginning on January 1, 2015,
2 and ending on”;

3 (2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at
4 the end;

5 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
6 at the end and inserting “; or”; and

7 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 paragraph:

9 “(C) was an off-campus outpatient department
10 of a hospital (as defined in section 1833(t)(21)(B))
11 that—

12 “(i) was a dedicated emergency depart-
13 ment (as defined in section 489.24(b) of title
14 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-
15 cessor regulation)); and

16 “(ii) was located in a county (or equivalent
17 unit of local government) in a rural area (as de-
18 fined in section 1886(d)(2)(D)).”.

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