

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1769

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require that, in considering the application of a hospital to change its geographic classification for purposes of determining the amount of payment to the hospital for the operating costs of inpatient hospital services under part A of the medicare program, the Secretary of Health and Human Services find the hospital's wages to be comparable to the wages of hospitals in the geographic area in which the hospital is applying to be classified if the average hourly wage of the hospital is at least 85 percent of the average hourly wage of hospitals paid in such area.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 1993

Mr. THOMAS of Wyoming (for himself, Mr. GUNDERSON, Mr. SLATTERY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. LANCASTER, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, and Mr. STRICKLAND) 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 require that, in considering the application of a hospital to change its geographic classification for purposes of determining the amount of payment to the hospital for the operating costs of inpatient hospital services under part A of the medicare program, the Secretary of Health and Human Services find the hospital's wages to be comparable to the wages of hospitals in the geographic area in which the hospital is applying to be classified if the average hourly wage of the hospital is at least

85 percent of the average hourly wage of hospitals paid in such area.

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 “Rural Hospital
5 Payment Equity Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. WAGE COMPARABILITY REQUIREMENT MET IF HOS-**
7 **PITAL WAGE IS 85 PERCENT OR MORE OF**
8 **WAGES IN AREA IN WHICH HOSPITAL AP-**
9 **PLIES TO BE CLASSIFIED.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(10)(D) of the
11 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(10)(D)) is
12 amended—

13 (1) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

14 and

15 (2) by inserting after clause (i) the following
16 new clause:

17 “(ii) The Board shall find that a hospital meets any
18 guidelines published under clause (i)(I) for comparing hos-
19 pital wages if the average hourly wage of the hospital is
20 at least 85 percent of the average hourly wage of hospitals
21 paid in the area in which the hospital is applying to be
22 classified.”.

23 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
24 subsection (a) shall apply to geographic classifications and

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1 reclassifications for hospitals under section
2 1886(d)(10)(C) of the Social Security Act for fiscal years
3 beginning on or after October 1, 1993.

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