

S 172

Rural Health Care Equity Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jan 15, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S856-859)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S856-859) (Jan 15, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/172>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Dayton, Mark [D-MN]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 15, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jan 15, 2003)

Rural Health Care Equity Act of 2003 - Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to: (1) permit hospitals to allocate swing beds and acute care inpatient beds subject to a total limit of 25 beds; (2) eliminate the isolation test for cost-based Medical critical access hospital (CAH) facility ambulance services; (3) provide for a specified alternative adjustment to the wage index; (4) establish a single standardized amount under the Medicare inpatient hospital prospective payment system (PPS); (5) restore the full market basket update for inpatient PPS hospitals; (6) freeze at 6.5 percent the indirect medical education adjustment percentage; (7) provide for establishment of a rural community hospital (RCH) program; (8) remove certain barriers to establishment of distinct part units by RCH and Medicare CAH facilities; (9) revise the CAH program, making various specified payment-related changes; and (10) extend the Medicare rural hospital flexibility program for five years.

Directs the Comptroller General to study and report to Congress on wage indexing and placement of hospitals in metropolitan statistical areas.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 15, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
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