

S 3300

Rural Hospital Assistance Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 22, 2008

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7300)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7300) (Jul 22, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/3300>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]

Party: Republican • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Sep 18, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 22, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 6912	Identical bill	Sep 16, 2008: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Rural Hospital Assistance Act of 2008 - Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act with respect to the additional inpatient hospital service payment (payment adjustment) for low-volume hospitals (usually meaning a "subsection (d) hospital" located more than 25 road miles from another subsection (d) hospital and having less than 800 discharges during the fiscal year.)

Redefines low-volume hospital, for discharges occurring during FY2009 only, as a "subsection (d) hospital" located more than 15 (instead of 25) road miles from another "subsection (d) hospital" and having less than 1,500 (instead of 800) discharges of individuals entitled to, or enrolled for, Medicare part A (Hospital Insurance) benefits ("tweeners," or hospitals too large to be critical access hospitals, but too small to be financially viable under the Medicare hospital prospective payment system (PPS)).

Revises, for FY2009 only, the temporary applicable percentage in the formula for determining the payment adjustment for such hospitals.

Requires the use of the non-wage adjusted prospective payment rate (PPS) rate during FY2009 under the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program.

Prescribes requirements for hospitals to qualify for a Medicare hospital exception to the prohibition on certain physician referrals to hospitals in which such physicians have an ownership or investment interest in the entity. (Eliminates the Medicare hospital exception for physician-owned hospitals, but provides a limited exception for existing facilities.)

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 22, 2008:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 22, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7075)
- **Jul 22, 2008:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7300)

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