

## S 2359

### Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act of 2014

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** May 20, 2014

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (May 20, 2014)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/2359>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]

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

## Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		May 20, 2014
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		May 20, 2014
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		May 20, 2014
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jun 3, 2014
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 3, 2014
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 5, 2014
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 10, 2014
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jun 23, 2014
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jul 30, 2014
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 31, 2014
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Nov 12, 2014

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 20, 2014

## Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 4067	Related bill	Dec 4, 2014: Became Public Law No: 113-198.
113 HR 4781	Related bill	May 30, 2014: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
113 S 2037	Related bill	Feb 24, 2014: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
113 S 1954	Related bill	Feb 14, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
113 HR 3991	Related bill	Feb 4, 2014: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
113 HR 3662	Related bill	Dec 6, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
113 HR 2867	Related bill	Aug 2, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
113 HR 2969	Related bill	Aug 2, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
113 S 1444	Related bill	Aug 1, 2013: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6222)
113 HR 2504	Related bill	Jul 23, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
113 S 562	Related bill	Mar 14, 2013: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S1855-1856)

Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act of 2014 - Expresses the sense of the Senate that residents of rural and frontier communities should have access to affordable, quality health care.

Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act with respect to:

- the Medicare disproportionate share hospital (DSH) adjustment for rural hospitals;
- extension of the temporary increase in payments to certain rural hospitals (Medicare hold harmless provision);
- the Medicare inpatient hospital payment adjustment for low-volume hospitals;
- Medicare wage index reclassifications for certain hospitals;
- Medicare reasonable costs payments for certain clinical diagnostic laboratory tests furnished to hospitals in certain rural areas;
- elimination of the isolation test for the cost-based ambulance reimbursement for critical access hospitals;
- the capital infrastructure revolving loan program;
- the Medicare incentive payment program for physician scarcity areas;
- extension of the 1.00 floor on Medicare work geographic adjustment to payments for physician services;
- permission for physician assistants to order post-hospital extended care services or hospice care;
- Medicare home health care planning;
- rural health clinics;
- a temporary Medicare payment increase for home health services furnished in a rural area;
- extension of increased Medicare payments for rural ground ambulance services; and
- coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under Medicare part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance).

Amends the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 to provide for the extension of the payment for the technical component of certain physician pathology services under Medicare.

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to encourage and facilitate the adoption of provisions allowing for multistate practitioner practice across state lines.

Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to extend Medicare part A (Hospital Insurance) coverage and payment, on a reasonable cost basis, to anesthesia services furnished by a physician anesthesiologist in certain rural hospitals in the same manner as payment is made for anesthesia services furnished by a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) in such hospitals.

Establishes the floor at 1.00 on the practice expense geographic index for services furnished during a specified period in certain rural areas outside of frontier states under the Medicare physician fee schedule.

Revises the standard for designation of sole community hospitals.

Amends the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986, as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, to include standby and on-call time costs for CRNAs in determination of the reasonable costs incurred by a hospital or critical access hospital for CRNA services.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for grants to states for operation of offices of rural health.

Repeals the Medicare 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

Directs the Secretary to continue to apply through 2014 a certain enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals.

### **Actions Timeline**

---

- **May 20, 2014:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 20, 2014:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.