

S 2786

Rural Access to Hospice Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Apr 13, 2016

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Apr 13, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2786>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | Apr 13, 2016 |
| Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT] | D · VT | | May 25, 2016 |
| Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH] | R · NH | | Sep 7, 2016 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Sep 14, 2016 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Apr 13, 2016 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 114 HR 5799 | Identical bill | Jul 29, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

Rural Access to Hospice Act of 2016

This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to allow payment under Medicare for certain services furnished to hospice patients by rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs).

With respect to a patient who elects to receive hospice care under Medicare, current law generally limits payment for services that are either duplicative of such care or related to the treatment of the individual's terminal illness. However, current law exempts from this limitation: (1) physicians' services furnished by the individual's attending physician, if not an employee of the hospice program; and (2) services provided or arranged by the hospice program.

The bill expands this exemption with regard to rural health clinic and FQHC services. Specifically, the Medicare payment limitation shall not apply to such services that: (1) would otherwise be physicians' services if furnished by an individual unaffiliated with a rural health clinic or FQHC; and (2) are either arranged by the hospice program or furnished by the individual's attending physician, if not an employee of the hospice program.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 13, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 13, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.