

## HR 2957

### Save Rural Hospitals Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jun 20, 2017

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jul 11, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2957>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Graves, Sam [R-MO-6]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** MO • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (24 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Jun 20, 2017
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Jun 27, 2017
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Jul 11, 2017
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Jul 12, 2017
Rep. Lucas, Frank D. [R-OK-3]	R · OK		Jul 12, 2017
Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7]	D · MN		Jul 12, 2017
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Jul 19, 2017
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Jul 26, 2017
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jul 26, 2017
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Jul 26, 2017
Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]	D · TX		Jul 26, 2017
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Jul 26, 2017
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jul 28, 2017
Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]	D · AL		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. Thornberry, Mac [R-TX-13]	R · TX		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-21]	R · CA		Sep 6, 2017
Rep. Conaway, K. Michael [R-TX-11]	R · TX		Sep 13, 2017
Rep. Hurd, Will [R-TX-23]	R · TX		Oct 3, 2017
Rep. Williams, Roger [R-TX-25]	R · TX		Oct 31, 2017
Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large]	R · ND		Nov 29, 2017
Rep. Higgins, Clay [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Feb 15, 2018
Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Apr 24, 2018
Rep. Poliquin, Bruce [R-ME-2]	R · ME		Sep 13, 2018
Rep. Russell, Steve [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Sep 28, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Budget Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 20, 2017
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 23, 2017
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 23, 2017
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 11, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 5507	Related bill	Apr 19, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Jun 20, 2017)

Save Rural Hospitals Act

This bill amends titles XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act (SSAct) to increase payments to, and modify various requirements regarding, rural health care providers under the Medicare program. Among other provisions, the bill: (1) reverses cuts to reimbursement of bad debt for critical access hospitals (CAHs) and rural hospitals, as well as alters certain requirements with regard to CAHs; (2) extends payment levels for low-volume hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals (MDHs); (3) reinstates revised diagnosis-related group payments to MDHs and sole community hospitals (SCHs), as well as reinstates hold harmless treatment for hospital outpatient services for SCHs; (4) delays the application of penalties for a rural hospital's failure to become a meaningful electronic health record user; (5) makes permanent increased Medicare payments for ground ambulance services in rural areas; (6) alters certain supervision requirements for therapeutic hospital outpatient services; (7) modifies requirements related to the use and payment of recovery audit contractors; and (8) establishes a program under which rural hospitals meeting specified requirements may be eligible for enhanced payment for qualified outpatient services.

In addition, the bill amends the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate Medicare sequestration for rural hospitals.

The bill also amends title XIX (Medicaid) of SSAct to extend Medicaid primary care payments.

With respect to both the Medicare and Medicaid programs, the bill eliminates disproportionate share hospital payment reductions for rural hospitals.

The bill also amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize several competitive grant programs to assist eligible rural hospitals.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 11, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 23, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection.
- **Jun 23, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 20, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 20, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.