

## S 980

### Rural Access to Hospice Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Apr 27, 2017

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Apr 27, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/980>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 27, 2017
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 27, 2017
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Apr 27, 2017
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		May 8, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		May 10, 2017
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		May 22, 2017
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jul 24, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jul 24, 2017
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Oct 18, 2017
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Oct 18, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Nov 14, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Dec 21, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 8, 2018
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Feb 14, 2018
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 26, 2018
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Mar 13, 2018
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Apr 9, 2018
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		May 17, 2018
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jun 11, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 27, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 1828	Related bill	Apr 12, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Apr 27, 2017)

Rural Access to Hospice Act of 2017

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 an attending physician not employed by 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 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 an attending physician not employed by the hospice program.

Actions Timeline

- Apr 27, 2017: Introduced in Senate
- Apr 27, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.