

S 644

Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 9, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S1426)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S1426) (Mar 9, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/644>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Mar 9, 2021
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 10, 2021
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Oct 25, 2021
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Apr 27, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 9, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1639	Identical bill	Mar 9, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2021

This bill allows additional hospitals to qualify as critical access hospitals (CAHs) that receive special payment under Medicare.

Currently, in order to qualify as a CAH under Medicare, a hospital must either (1) be located more than 35 miles (or 15 miles in mountainous regions or areas with only secondary roads) from another hospital, or (2) have been certified prior to January 1, 2006, by the state as a necessary provider of services in the area.

The bill allows a hospital to also qualify if the hospital is a small, rural hospital that (1) serves a health professional shortage area, or a high number of low-income individuals or Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries; (2) has experienced financial losses for two consecutive years; and (3) attests to having a strategic plan to address financial solvency.

In addition, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation must test a new delivery and payment model for rural hospitals that promotes financially sustainable access to care and must establish a corresponding transition process for CAHs.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 9, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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