

S 521

Supporting Access to Rural Community Hospitals Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 11, 2025

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Feb 11, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/521>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 11, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 1191	Identical bill	Feb 11, 2025: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Supporting Access to Rural Community Hospitals Act of 2025

This bill temporarily 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. Hospitals also must meet certain size and service requirements, including having no more than 25 acute care inpatient beds.

The bill allows, for one year, hospitals that are participating in the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program to also qualify as CAHs. (The program tests the feasibility of cost-based reimbursement for small rural hospitals that are too large to qualify as CAHs.)

