

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1209

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2015

Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Access to
5 Maternity Care Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MATERNITY CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORT-**
7 **AGE AREAS.**

8 Section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42
9 U.S.C. 254e) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new subsection:

1 “(k)(1) The Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
2 trator of the Health Resources and Services Administra-
3 tion, shall designate maternity care health professional
4 shortage areas in the States and at least annually there-
5 after review and, as necessary, revise such designations.

6 “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), and in applying
7 subsection (b) pursuant to paragraph (4), the Secretary
8 shall seek input from relevant provider organizations, in-
9 cluding medical societies, organizations representing med-
10 ical facilities, and other organizations with expertise in
11 maternity care.

12 “(3) In applying subsection (d), pursuant to para-
13 graph (4), the Secretary shall collect and publish in the
14 Federal Register data on health care professional shortage
15 areas based on professional category of maternal health
16 professionals providing full scope maternity health care by
17 provider type as well as geographic region. Such data shall
18 be presented in a manner to compare availability and need
19 of such professionals by such professional category and ge-
20 ographic region.

21 “(4) The provisions of subsections (b), (c), (d), (e),
22 (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) (other than (j)(1)(B)) of this sec-
23 tion shall apply to the designation of a maternity care
24 health professional shortage area under this subsection in
25 a similar manner and extent as such provisions apply to

1 the designation of health professional shortage areas
2 under subsection (a), except—

3 “(A) in applying subsection (b)(3), the ref-
4 erence in such subsection to ‘physicians’ shall be
5 deemed to be a reference to physicians and other
6 health professionals as providing maternity care eli-
7 gible for loan repayment under this part who provide
8 full scope maternity care;

9 “(B) in applying subsection (d)—

10 “(i) the reference in paragraph (2) of such
11 subsection to ‘July 1 of 1991’ shall be deemed
12 to be a reference to ‘July 1 of 2016’; and

13 “(ii) the descriptive list required under
14 such paragraph, with respect to a maternity
15 care health professional shortage area des-
16 ignated under paragraph (1), shall include—

17 “(I) population groups in the area
18 that would benefit from full scope mater-
19 nity care health services; and

20 “(II) the providers and medical facili-
21 ties that provide such services to such
22 groups in such area; and

23 “(C) in applying such provisions of subsections
24 (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j), a reference to
25 an area, population group, or facility shall be

1 deemed to be a reference to an area or population
2 group described in paragraph (5).

3 “(5) For purposes of this subsection:

4 “(A) The term ‘maternity care health profes-
5 sional shortage area’ means—

6 “(i) an area in an urban or rural area
7 (which need not conform to the geographic
8 boundaries of a political subdivision and which
9 is a rational area for the delivery of health serv-
10 ices) which the Secretary determines has a
11 shortage of providers of full scope maternity
12 care health services;

13 “(ii) an area in an urban or rural area
14 (which need not conform to the geographic
15 boundaries of a political subdivision and which
16 is a rational area for the delivery of health serv-
17 ices) which the Secretary determines has a
18 shortage of hospital or birth center labor and
19 delivery units; or

20 “(iii) a population group which the Sec-
21 retary determines has such a shortage of mater-
22 nal providers or facilities.

23 “(B) The term ‘full scope maternity care health
24 services’ includes during labor care, birthing, pre-
25 natal care, and postpartum care.

1 “(C) The term ‘medical facility’ has the mean-
2 ing given such term in subsection (a)(2) and in-
3 cludes a freestanding birth center, as defined in sec-
4 tion 1905(l)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act.”.

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