

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 584

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide the option to receive Medicare Summary Notices electronically, to increase the flexibility and transparency of contracts with medicare administrative contractors, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide the option to receive Medicare Summary Notices electronically, to increase the flexibility and transparency of contracts with medicare administrative contractors, and for other purposes.

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 “Better Efficiency and
5 Administrative Simplification Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPTION TO RECEIVE MEDICARE SUMMARY NOTICE**
2 **ELECTRONICALLY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1806 of the Social Secu-
4 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395b–7) is amended by adding at
5 the end the following new subsection:

6 “(c) FORMAT OF STATEMENTS FROM SECRETARY.—

7 “(1) ELECTRONIC OPTION BEGINNING IN
8 2016.—Subject to paragraph (2), for statements de-
9 scribed in subsection (a) that are furnished for a pe-
10 riod in 2016 or a subsequent year, in the case that
11 an individual described in subsection (a) elects, in
12 accordance with such form, manner, and time speci-
13 fied by the Secretary, to receive such statement in
14 an electronic format, such statement shall be fur-
15 nished to such individual for each period subsequent
16 to such election in such a format and shall not be
17 mailed to the individual.

18 “(2) LIMITATION ON REVOCATION OPTION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
20 graph (B), the Secretary may determine a max-
21 imum number of elections described in para-
22 graph (1) by an individual that may be revoked
23 by the individual.

24 “(B) MINIMUM OF ONE REVOCATION OP-
25 TION.—In no case may the Secretary determine

1 a maximum number under subparagraph (A)
2 that is less than one.

3 “(3) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall en-
4 sure that, in the most cost effective manner and be-
5 ginning January 1, 2017, a clear notification of the
6 option to elect to receive statements described in
7 subsection (a) in an electronic format is made avail-
8 able, such as through the notices distributed under
9 section 1804, to individuals described in subsection
10 (a).”.

11 (b) ENCOURAGED EXPANSION OF ELECTRONIC
12 STATEMENTS.—To the extent to which the Secretary of
13 Health and Human Services determines appropriate, the
14 Secretary shall—

15 (1) apply an option similar to the option de-
16 scribed in subsection (c)(1) of section 1806 of the
17 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395b–7) (relating to
18 the provision of the Medicare Summary Notice in an
19 electronic format), as added by subsection (a), to
20 other statements and notifications under title XVIII
21 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

22 (2) provide such Medicare Summary Notice and
23 any such other statements and notifications on a
24 more frequent basis than is otherwise required under
25 such title.

1 **SEC. 3. RENEWAL OF MAC CONTRACTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1874A(b)(1)(B) of the
3 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395kk–1(b)(1)(B)) is
4 amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

5 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-
6 section (a) shall apply to contracts entered into on or
7 after, and to contracts in effect as of, the date of the en-
8 actment of this Act.

9 (c) CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE TRANSPARENCY.—
10 Section 1874A(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42
11 U.S.C. 1395kk–1(b)(3)(A)) is amended by adding at the
12 end the following new clause:

13 “(iv) CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE
14 TRANSPARENCY.—To the extent possible
15 without compromising the process for en-
16 tering into and renewing contracts with
17 medicare administrative contractors under
18 this section, the Secretary shall make
19 available to the public the performance of
20 each medicare administrative contractor
21 with respect to such performance require-
22 ments and measurement standards.”.

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