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113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 855

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require Medicaid coverage of optometrists.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Mr. HALL (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TERRY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. WHITFIELD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require Medicaid coverage of optometrists.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Optometric Equity in Medicaid Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIRING COVERAGE OF SERVICES OF OPTOMETRISTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' before ''(B)''; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', and (C) medical and other health services (as defined in section 1861(s)) as authorized by State law, furnished by an optometrist (described in section 1861(r)(4)) to the extent such services may be performed under State law''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to services furnished and other actions required on or after such date.

(2) RULE FOR CHANGES REQUIRING STATE LEGISLATION.—In the case of a State plan for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirement imposed by the amendments made by subsection (a), the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such title solely on the basis of its failure to meet this additional requirement before

the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of such session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

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