

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 781

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. DOGGETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the inclusion of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards.

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 “Medicare Identity
5 Theft Prevention Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF INCLUSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY**
7 **ACCOUNT NUMBERS ON MEDICARE CARDS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)) is amended—

1 (1) by moving clause (x), as added by section
2 1414(a)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable
3 Care Act, 6 ems to the left;

4 (2) by redesignating clause (x), as added by
5 section 2(a)(1) of the Social Security Number Pro-
6 tection Act of 2010, and clause (xi) as clauses (xi)
7 and (xii), respectively; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new
9 clause:

10 “(xiii) The Secretary of Health and Human Services,
11 in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security,
12 shall establish cost-effective procedures to ensure that a
13 Social Security account number (or derivative thereof) is
14 not displayed, coded, or embedded on the Medicare card
15 issued to an individual who is entitled to benefits under
16 part A of title XVIII or enrolled under part B of title
17 XVIII and that any other identifier displayed on such card
18 is not identifiable as a Social Security account number (or
19 derivative thereof).”.

20 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing clause (xiii)
21 of section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42
22 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)), as added by subsection (a)(3), the
23 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish
24 a cost-effective process that involves the least amount of
25 disruption to Medicare beneficiaries and health care pro-

1 viders. The Secretary shall consider implementing a pro-
2 cess, similar to the process involving Railroad Retirement
3 Board beneficiaries, under which a Medicare beneficiary
4 identifier which is not a Social Security account number
5 (or derivative thereof) is used external to the Department
6 of Health and Human Services and is convertible over to
7 a Social Security account number (or derivative thereof)
8 for use internal to such Department and the Social Secu-
9 rity Administration.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Clause (xiii) of section
12 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
13 405(c)(2)(C)), as added by subsection (a)(3), shall
14 apply with respect to Medicare cards issued on and
15 after an effective date specified by the Secretary of
16 Health and Human Services, but in no case shall
17 such effective date be later than the date that is 3
18 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 (2) REISSUANCE.—The Secretary—

20 (A) shall provide for the reissuance of
21 Medicare cards that comply with the require-
22 ments of such clause not later than 3 years
23 after the effective date specified by the Sec-
24 retary under paragraph (1); and

1 (B) may permit an individual to apply for
2 the reissuance of a Medicare card that complies
3 with such requirements before the date of
4 reissuance otherwise provided under subpara-
5 graph (A) in such exceptional circumstances as
6 the Secretary may specify.

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