

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 7931  
OFFERED BY M. \_\_\_\_\_**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Preserving Emergency  
3 Access in Key Sites Act” or the “PEAKS Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. UPDATE TO FEE SCHEDULE FOR AMBULANCE SERV-  
5 ICES PROVIDED BY CRITICAL ACCESS HOS-  
6 PITALS.**

7       Section 1834(l)(8) of the Social Security Act (42  
8 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(8)) is amended in the flush left text fol-  
9 lowing subparagraph (B) by inserting “(or, in the case of  
10 mountainous terrain or in areas with only secondary roads  
11 available, with respect to services furnished on or after  
12 January 1, 2026, a 15-mile drive)” after “35-mile drive”.

1 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF HOSPITALS THAT MET MOUN-**  
2 **TAINOUS TERRAIN OR SECONDARY ROADS**  
3 **DISTANCE REQUIREMENT FOR DESIGNATION**  
4 **AS CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL.**

5 Section 1820(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
6 1395i-4(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following  
7 new paragraph:

8 “(4) TREATMENT OF HOSPITALS THAT MET  
9 MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN OR SECONDARY ROADS DIS-  
10 TANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1,  
12 2025, in the case of a hospital described in sub-  
13 paragraph (B), such hospital shall be deemed to  
14 meet the 15-mile distance requirement for  
15 mountainous terrain or secondary roads de-  
16 scribed in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i)(I).

17 “(B) HOSPITAL DESCRIBED.—A hospital  
18 described in this subparagraph is a hospital  
19 that—

20 “(i) as of the date of enactment of  
21 this paragraph, is designated as a critical  
22 access hospital;

23 “(ii) demonstrates (in a manner deter-  
24 mined by the Secretary) that the hospital  
25 met the 15-mile distance requirement for  
26 mountainous terrain or secondary roads

1 described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i)(I) as of  
2 the hospital's last certification as a critical  
3 access hospital; and

4 “(iii) after such date of enactment,  
5 has a new hospital or other facility de-  
6 scribed in this subsection that is located  
7 not less than 10, but no more than 15,  
8 miles from the hospital.

9 “(C) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1  
10 year after the date of enactment of this para-  
11 graph, the Secretary shall promulgate regula-  
12 tions to carry out this paragraph.”.

