

SEC. 1010. (a) EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a)(3)(A) of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5) is amended by striking “December 31, 2009” and inserting “February 28, 2010”.

(b) EXTENSION OF MAXIMUM DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)(I) of such section is amended by striking “9 months” and inserting “15 months”.

(c) RULES RELATED TO 2009 EXTENSION.—Subsection (a) of such section is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(16) RULES RELATED TO 2009 EXTENSION.—

“(A) ELECTION TO PAY PREMIUMS RETROACTIVELY AND MAINTAIN COBRA COVERAGE.—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during an assistance eligible individual’s transition period, such individual shall be treated for purposes of any COBRA continuation provision as having timely paid the amount of such premium if—

“(i) such individual was covered under the COBRA continuation coverage to which such premium relates for the period of coverage immediately preceding such transition period, and

“(ii) such individual pays, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph (or, if later, 30 days after the date of provision of the notification required under subparagraph (D)(ii)), the amount of such premium, after the application of paragraph (1)(A).

“(B) REFUNDS AND CREDITS FOR RETROACTIVE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who pays, with respect to any period of COBRA continuation coverage during such individual’s transition period, the premium amount for such coverage without regard to paragraph (1)(A), rules similar to the rules of paragraph (12)(E) shall apply.

“(C) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘transition period’ means, with respect to any assistance eligible individual, any period of coverage if—

“(I) such period begins before the date of the enactment of this paragraph, and

“(II) paragraph (1)(A) applies to such period by reason of the amendment made by section 1010(b) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

“(ii) CONSTRUCTION.—Any period during the period described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) for which the applicable premium has been paid pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a period of coverage referred to in such paragraph, irrespective of any failure to timely pay the applicable premium (other than pursuant to subparagraph (A)) for such period.

“(D) NOTIFICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who was an assistance eligible individual at any time on or after October 31, 2009, or experiences a qualifying event (consisting of termination of employment)

relating to COBRA continuation coverage on or after such date, the administrator of the group health plan (or other entity) involved shall provide an additional notification with information regarding the amendments made by section 1010 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, within 60 days after the date of the enactment of such Act or, in the case of a qualifying event occurring after such date of enactment, consistent with the timing of notifications under paragraph (7)(A).

“(ii) TO INDIVIDUALS WHO LOST ASSISTANCE.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual described in subparagraph (A)(i) who did not timely pay the premium for any period of coverage during such individual’s transition period or paid the premium for such period without regard to paragraph (1)(A), the administrator of the group health plan (or other entity) involved shall provide to such individual, within the first 60 days of such individual’s transition period, an additional notification with information regarding the amendments made by section 1010 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, including information on the ability under subparagraph (A) to make retroactive premium payments with respect to the transition period of the individual in order to maintain COBRA continuation coverage.

“(iii) APPLICATION OF RULES.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (7) shall apply with respect to notifications under this subparagraph.”

(d) CLARIFICATION THAT ELIGIBILITY AND NOTICE IS BASED ON TIMING OF QUALIFYING EVENT.—Subsection (a) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(A) by striking “at any time” and inserting “such qualified beneficiary is eligible for COBRA continuation coverage related to a qualifying event occurring”; and

(B) by striking “, such qualified beneficiary is eligible for COBRA continuation coverage”; and

(2) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage” and inserting “have a qualifying event relating to COBRA continuation coverage”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to which they relate.

(f) EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in this section are designated as emergency requirements and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to sections 403 and 423(b) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

(2) PAYGO.—All applicable provisions in this section are designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles.

SEC. 1011. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) UPDATE FOR PORTION OF 2010.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (7)(B), (8)(B), and (9)(B), in lieu of the update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) that would otherwise apply for 2010 for the period beginning on January 1, 2010, and ending on February 28, 2010, the update to the single conversion factor shall be 0 percent for 2010.

“(B) NO EFFECT ON COMPUTATION OF CONVERSION FACTOR FOR REMAINING PORTION OF 2010 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—The conversion factor under this subsection shall be computed under paragraph (1)(A) for the period beginning on March 1, 2010, and ending on December 31, 2010, and for 2011 and subsequent years as if subparagraph (A) had never applied.”

(b) FUNDING FROM MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.—Section 1898(b)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “\$22,290,000,000” and inserting “\$20,740,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) fiscal year 2015, \$550,000,000; and”

SEC. 1012. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not publish updated poverty guidelines for 2010 under section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) before March 1, 2010, and the poverty guidelines published under such section on January 23, 2009, shall remain in effect until updated poverty guidelines are published.

SEC. 1013. From the “National Telecommunications and Information Administration—Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Program” in the Department of Commerce, \$128,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

SEC. 1014. The explanatory statement regarding this Act printed in the House of Representatives section of the Congressional Record on or about December 16, 2010, by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall have the same effect with respect

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to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if
it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*