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3 **Title: Observation Status and Medicare Part A Qualification**
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5 **Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation**
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7 **Original Author: Jayne E. Courts, MD**
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9 **Referred to: Reference Committee A**
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11 **House Action: Adopted as Amended**
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14 **Whereas, observation status was originally designed to temporarily move**
15 **patients out of emergency rooms for short-term stays (fewer than 24 hours),**
16 **and**
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18 **Whereas, acceptable diagnoses for admission reimbursement by**
19 **Medicare have become increasingly restricted, and**
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21 **Whereas, hospitals are now being financially penalized for readmissions**
22 **within 30 days of discharge, thus encouraging even greater use of observation**
23 **status to avoid incurring these penalties, and**
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25 **Whereas, an inpatient stay of 72 hours is required for discharged patients**
26 **to receive Medicare Part A coverage for their care (full coverage of most skilled**
27 **services for 100 days); therefore be it**
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29 **RESOLVED: That our AMA seek and/or support a requirement that a 72**
30 **hour hospital stay, either under inpatient status or under observation status,**
31 **will qualify a patient for Medicare Part A coverage for skilled services after**
32 **discharge.**
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35 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**