

HR 2498

Medicare Extension of Drugs to Seniors (MEDS) Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jun 17, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jul 2, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/2498>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT-At Large]

Party: Independent • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (21 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Brown, Corrine [D-FL-3]	D · FL		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Frank, Barney [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Hinchey, Maurice D. [D-NY-22]	D · NY		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Kucinich, Dennis J. [D-OH-10]	D · OH		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Olver, John W. [D-MA-1]	D · MA		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Watson, Diane E. [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Weiner, Anthony D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jun 17, 2003
Rep. Owens, Major R. [D-NY-11]	D · NY		Jun 19, 2003
Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Jun 23, 2003
Rep. Kildee, Dale E. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Jun 24, 2003
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Jul 14, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 1, 2003
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 2, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 17, 2003)

Medicare Extension of Drugs to Seniors (MEDS) Act of 2003 - Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to add a new part D (Prescription Medicine Benefit for the Aged and Disabled) establishing a voluntary insurance program to provide prescription medicine benefits, including pharmacy services, for eligible individuals (including low-income individuals) who are aged or disabled or have end-stage renal disease, and who elect to enroll during a prescribed period. Provides that the program shall be financed from monthly premium payments by enrollees together with Federal appropriations. Creates the Prescription Medicine Insurance Account within the Federal Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund. Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and implement an Employer Incentive Program that encourages employers to provide adequate prescription medicine benefits to retired individuals and maintain such existing benefit programs.

Outlines provisions for substantial reductions in the price of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, with respect to the importation of certain prescription drugs, to revise testing requirements (granting the Secretary certain waiver discretion), and add approved labeling requirements.

Requires the recipient of a patent to make a reasonable pricing agreement with the Secretary (or the Secretary to waive such an agreement in the public interest) if any Federal agency or any non-profit entity: (1) undertakes federally funded health care research and development; and (2) is to convey or provide a patent or other exclusive right to use such research and development for a drug or other health care technology.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 2, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 1, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 17, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 17, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 17, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
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