

S 2664

Pharmacy Access Improvement (PhAlm) Act of 2006

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Apr 27, 2006

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Apr 27, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/2664>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]

Party: Democratic • State: MT • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Conrad, Kent [D-ND]	D · ND		Apr 27, 2006
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Apr 27, 2006
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 27, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 27, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 5182	Related bill	May 15, 2006: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials.
109 HR 5307	Related bill	May 15, 2006: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman .
109 S 2723	Related bill	May 4, 2006: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
109 S 2563	Related bill	Apr 6, 2006: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3220-3221)

Pharmacy Access Improvement (PhAIM) Act of 2006 - Amends part D (Voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program) of title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act (SSA) with respect to participating pharmacies and standards for access to them. Requires that such standards ensure that enrollees residing in long-term care facilities have access to a long-term care network pharmacy.

Requires prompt payment of clean claims to pharmacies by prescription drug plans (PDPs) and Medicare Advantage prescription drug plans (MA-PD Plans) Defines prompt payment as within 14 days from submission for claims submitted electronically, and within 30 days for claims submitted otherwise. Requires payment of interest, also, if a payment is not issued, mailed, or otherwise transmitted within the applicable number of calendar days.

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a 24-hour toll-free telephone number dedicated to providing Medicare prescription drug benefit information to pharmacists and pharmacy staff.

Amends SSA title XVIII to require PDP sponsors to establish toll-free pharmacy and physician and provider hotlines.

Requires a PDP sponsor to utilize standardized technology for any communication or transaction occurring between the PDP and a participating pharmacy.

Prohibits a Medicare prescription drug card issued by a PDP sponsor from displaying the name, brand, logo, or trademark (co-branding) of any pharmacy.

Provides for submission of claims by pharmacies located in or contracting with long-term care facilities.

Requires the Secretary to establish reasonable dispensing fees for covered Medicare part D drugs dispensed through participating pharmacies.

Requires a PDP sponsor to encourage generic utilization by paying an increased dispensing fee for generic drugs.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 27, 2006:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 27, 2006:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3710)
- **Apr 27, 2006:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.