

## S 1954

Pharmacy Access Improvement (PhAlm) Act of 2007

**Congress:** 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Aug 2, 2007

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Aug 2, 2007)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/1954>

### Sponsor

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

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

**Cosponsors** (38 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Conrad, Kent [D-ND]	D · ND		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Salazar, Ken [D-CO]	D · CO		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]	R · OR		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]	R · ME		Aug 2, 2007
Sen. Dorgan, Byron L. [D-ND]	D · ND		Sep 5, 2007
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Sep 5, 2007
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Sep 17, 2007
Sen. Bond, Christopher S. [R-MO]	R · MO		Sep 19, 2007
Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 24, 2007
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Sep 24, 2007
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Oct 1, 2007
Sen. Dole, Elizabeth [R-NC]	R · NC		Oct 3, 2007
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Oct 17, 2007
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Oct 17, 2007
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 22, 2007
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Dec 3, 2007
Sen. Obama, Barack [D-IL]	D · IL		Dec 3, 2007
Sen. Chambliss, Saxby [R-GA]	R · GA		Dec 6, 2007
Sen. Brownback, Sam [R-KS]	R · KS		Jan 31, 2008
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 31, 2008
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Apr 2, 2008
Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 3, 2008
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Apr 14, 2008
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Apr 24, 2008
Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN]	R · TN		May 6, 2008
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		May 20, 2008
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		May 21, 2008
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Jun 3, 2008
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Jun 10, 2008
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 12, 2008
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jul 22, 2008

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 2, 2007

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Health

## Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Aug 2, 2007)

Pharmacy Access Improvement (PhAIm) Act of 2007 - 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 payment occurring within 14 days from submission for claims submitted electronically, and within 30 days for claims submitted otherwise. Requires payment of interest 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.

Requires PDP sponsors to establish toll-free pharmacy and physician and provider hotlines.

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 Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services to analyze and report to the Secretary on the cost of dispensing covered part D drugs under a PDP or an MA-PD plan.

Provides that, if the PDP sponsor uses a standard for reimbursement of pharmacies based on the cost of a drug, each contract entered into with such sponsor with respect to the plan shall require the sponsor to update the standard at least once every seven days.

## Actions Timeline

- **Aug 2, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 2, 2007:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S10802)
- **Aug 2, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.