# S 1220

Patient Access to Critical Lab Tests Act

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)
**Chamber:** Senate
**Policy Area:** Health
**Introduced:** Jun 9, 2009
**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6383)
**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6383) (Jun 9, 2009)
**Official Text:** https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1220

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Specter, Arlen [D-PA]
**Party:** Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** Senate

## Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jun 9, 2009 |

## Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jun 9, 2009 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

## Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|---|---|---|
| 111 HR 1699 | Related bill | **Mar 26, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

## Summary (as of Jun 9, 2009)

Patient Access to Critical Lab Tests Act - Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) where practical, Medicare regulations and policies should be written to promote development of and access to certain highly specialized laboratory tests; and (2) certain Medicare regulations should be revised to permit laboratories furnishing such tests to bill for and be paid directly by Medicare for furnishing them.

Declares that, whenever a laboratory performs a covered complex diagnostic laboratory test, with respect to a specimen collected from an individual during a period in which the individual is a hospital patient, if the test is performed after such period, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall treat such test, for purposes of making direct payment to the laboratory, as if the specimen had been collected by the laboratory directly.

Defines "covered complex diagnostic laboratory test" as: (1) an analysis of DNA, RNA, chromosomes, proteins, or metabolites that detects, identifies, or quantitates genotypes, mutations, chromosomal changes, biochemical changes, cell response, or protein expression, or gene expression or similar method or is a cancer chemotherapy sensitivity assay or similar method, with certain exceptions; (2) a diagnostic X-ray or other diagnostic test; (3) one developed and performed by a laboratory independent of the hospital in which the specimen involved was collected, and not under any arrangements with such hospital; and (4) one not furnished by such hospital, directly or under any arrangements made by it.

## Actions Timeline

- **Jun 9, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 9, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S6382-6383)
- **Jun 9, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6383)