

S 1809

Viral Hepatitis Testing Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Nov 3, 2011

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Nov 3, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/1809>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 7, 2012
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 27, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 3, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 3381	Related bill	Nov 4, 2011: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Viral Hepatitis Testing Act of 2011 - Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to carry out surveillance, education, and testing programs with respect to hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) virus infections.

Requires the Secretary to establish a national system with respect to HBV and HCV to: (1) determine the prevalence of such infections, (2) carry out testing programs to increase the number of individuals who are aware of their infection, (3) disseminate public information and education programs for the detection and control of such infections, (4) provide referrals for counseling and medical treatment and ensure the provision of follow-up services, and (5) improve the training of health professionals in the treatment of such infections. Directs the Secretary to determine the populations that are considered at high risk.

Requires the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to complete the revision of CDC guidelines for screening individuals with HCV, taking into account: (1) the effectiveness issues that have been raised with respect to the current CDC guidelines for screening, (2) the importance of responding to the perception that receiving such screening may be stigmatizing, and (3) whether age-based screening would be effective.

Requires the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to: (1) develop HCV screening recommendations, taking into account the guidelines established by CDC and new and improved treatments for HCV; and (2) develop HBV screening recommendations, taking into account the guidelines the CDC recommended in 2008.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 3, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 3, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7137-7138)
- **Nov 3, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.