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Medicare Patient Empowerment Act

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 7, 2013

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Feb 7, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/236>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

Party: Republican • **State:** AK • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Feb 7, 2013
Sen. Coburn, Tom [R-OK]	R · OK		Feb 7, 2013
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Feb 7, 2013
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Dec 10, 2013
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 9, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 7, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 2300	Related bill	Jul 15, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
113 HR 1310	Related bill	Apr 10, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Feb 7, 2013)

Medicare Patient Empowerment Act - Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to allow any Medicare beneficiary to enter into a contract with a non-participating (as well as with a participating) physician or practitioner for any item or service covered by Medicare. Allows such beneficiaries to submit a claim for Medicare payment in the amount that would otherwise apply if the claim had been filed by a participating physician or practitioner in the payment area where the physician or practitioner covered by the contract resides.

Requires a Medicare beneficiary to agree in writing in such a contract to: (1) pay the physician or practitioner for a Medicare-covered item or service; and (2) submit (in lieu of the physician or practitioner) a claim for Medicare payment. Allows a beneficiary, however, to negotiate, as a term of the contract, for the physician or practitioner to file such claims on the beneficiary's behalf.

Preempts state laws from limiting the amount of charges for physician and practitioner services for which Medicare payment is made.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 7, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 7, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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