

## S 1287

### Viral Hepatitis Testing Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** May 12, 2015

**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. (May 12, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1287>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]

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

### Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		May 12, 2015
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 12, 2015
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 12, 2015
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 12, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 14, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 22, 2015
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Apr 28, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 12, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1101	Identical bill	Mar 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Viral Hepatitis Testing Act of 2015**

Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to carry out hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) virus infection surveillance, education, and testing programs.

Requires HHS to establish a national system regarding HBV and HCV infections, with its goals being to:

- determine the prevalence of infections,
- increase the number of individuals tested and made aware of their status,
- develop and disseminate public information and education programs,
- improve the training of health professionals, and
- provide referrals for counseling and medical treatment and ensure the provision of follow-up services.

Directs HHS to determine the populations that are considered at high risk for HBV or HCV infection.

Requires HHS to develop benchmarks for activities conducted under the Action Plan for the Prevention, Care, & Treatment of Viral Hepatitis.

Directs HHS to establish and support public-private partnerships that facilitate HBV and HCV surveillance, education, screening, testing, and linkage to care programs.

Requires the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to convene the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force every three years to review its recommendation for HBV and HCV screening.

Directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide certain veterans with an HBV and HCV risk assessment, and, as needed, an evaluation and information regarding their need for treatment, vaccination, or other therapy.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 12, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 12, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.