

## S 1961

### Improving the Treatment of the U.S. Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Aug 5, 2015

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Aug 5, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1961>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]

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

## Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Aug 5, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Aug 5, 2015
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Aug 5, 2015
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Sep 10, 2015
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 22, 2015

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 5, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2675	Related bill	Mar 14, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1465-1466)
114 S 1602	Related bill	Jun 17, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 HR 2635	Related bill	Jun 5, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 1453	Related bill	May 21, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 HR 1225	Related bill	Mar 27, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 HR 1418	Related bill	Mar 20, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Improving the Treatment of the U.S. Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act of 2015**

This bill amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act (SSAct) to: (1) terminate limitations on general Medicaid funding, as well as the specific federal medical assistance percentage, for U.S. territories; (2) extend to additional U.S. territories the authority to waive or modify certain Medicaid requirements; and (3) establish a formula for Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments to the territories.

Federal financial participation shall generally not be available to a territory for medical assistance for an individual whose family income exceeds 100% percent of the official poverty line for a family of that size.

The bill also amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the SSAct to: (1) revise the formula for the Medicare inpatient hospital services payment rate for hospitals in Puerto Rico to increase the applicable federal percentage from 75% to 100%, (2) apply Medicare HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act) payments to certain hospitals in Puerto Rico, (3) establish a formula element for calculating Medicare DSH payments under the inpatient prospective payment system for certain hospitals in Puerto Rico, (4) allow residents of Puerto Rico to enroll under Medicare hospital services, (5) increase the geographic adjustment practice expense index for Puerto Rico, and (6) alter how U.S territories are treated under Medicare Advantage and the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Aug 5, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 5, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.