

S 2023

Prescription Drug Affordability Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Sep 10, 2015

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sep 10, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2023>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]

Party: Independent • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Sep 10, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 10, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 3513	Identical bill	Sep 18, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 HR 3061	Related bill	Jul 20, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 HR 2391	Related bill	May 22, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 1364	Related bill	May 18, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 HR 2005	Related bill	May 13, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 1083	Related bill	Apr 23, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 S 31	Related bill	Jan 6, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Prescription Drug Affordability Act of 2015

This bill amends titles XVIII (Medicare) and XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to modify provisions related to the affordability of prescription drugs under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Specifically, the bill:

- requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid to negotiate lower prices on behalf of beneficiaries for drugs covered under Medicare Part D;
- accelerates closure of the Medicare Part D coverage gap known as the "donut hole," under which beneficiaries who have reached a certain level of yearly drug costs become fully responsible for any additional drug costs up to a certain limit;
- requires drug manufacturers to issue rebates for prescription drugs dispensed to eligible low-income individuals under Medicare or Medicaid; and
- expands the application of certain prescription drug rebate requirements under Medicaid to include rebates for generic drugs.

The bill also amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to: (1) allow the importation by individuals of prescription drugs from Canada and, potentially, other countries; and (2) establish certain conditions on the award of market exclusivity with respect to drugs. Specifically, a drug manufacturer's market exclusivity shall be terminated if the manufacturer commits, or fails to report, a drug-related violation such as misbranding, illegal marketing, or fraud.

In addition, the bill amends the Federal Trade Commission Act to: (1) establish restrictions on certain anticompetitive patent settlements known as "pay-for-delay" agreements, which effectively block generic drug competition; and (2) allow the Federal Trade Commission to initiate proceedings to enforce these restrictions against any parties to such a settlement.

The bill also requires drug manufacturers to produce and share annual reports containing specified information related to domestic and foreign sales.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 10, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 10, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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