

## S 196

### Public Health Emergency Response and Accountability Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jan 24, 2017

**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. (Jan 24, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/196>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]

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

## Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jan 24, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 23, 2017

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 24, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Health

## Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Public Health Emergency Response and Accountability Act**

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services, upon determination of a public health emergency, to provide for the convening of a group of federal officials to prepare monthly reports concerning such matters as funding, collaboration, and best practices.

The bill makes appropriations to the Public Health Emergency Fund upon determination of an emergency. Funding is subject to a calculation that compares amounts available in the fund to average public health emergency relief expenditures over preceding fiscal years.

The bill amends the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to exempt the fund from sequestration, a process of automatic, usually across-the-board spending reductions under which budgetary resources are permanently cancelled to enforce specific budget policy goals.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) must report on:

- the capacity of the public health system to respond effectively to infectious disease outbreaks,
- the coordination between federal, state, and local government entities when responding to infectious disease outbreaks,
- the most effective ways to provide or allocate resources for public health emergency response, and
- an audit of how funds for public health emergencies have been expended within the last two years.

GAO must also issue a post-emergency report on response efforts by government entities.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 24, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.