

## S 2165

Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Emergency Management

**Introduced:** Nov 28, 2017

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Nov 28, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2165>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 28, 2017
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 28, 2017
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 28, 2017
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 28, 2017
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 28, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 28, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 20, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 28, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Emergency Management

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4782	Related bill	<b>May 22, 2018:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy.
115 HR 4307	Related bill	<b>Nov 8, 2017:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.
115 S 2026	Related bill	<b>Oct 26, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
115 HR 2531	Related bill	<b>May 31, 2017:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
115 HR 2404	Related bill	<b>May 22, 2017:</b> Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR H4418-4419)
115 HR 2530	Related bill	<b>May 18, 2017:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
115 HR 2263	Related bill	<b>May 5, 2017:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
115 HR 261	Related bill	<b>Jan 25, 2017:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## Summary (as of Nov 28, 2017)

### Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act of 2017

This bill provides for additional disaster-recovery assistance and other assistance to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with respect to infrastructure, health care, agriculture, education, economic development, and environmental remediation, among other sectors. Specifically, regarding both territories, the bill:

- provides for the use of certain emergency assistance to rebuild electric grids;
- establishes several grant programs to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- subject to specified oversight requirements, increases funding for transportation infrastructure, telecommunications systems, housing, and community development;
- increases funding for the Medicaid and Medicare programs;
- temporarily increases social-services block-grant allotments;
- increases funding for, and otherwise revises, rural and agricultural programs;
- increases funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- provides for aid to the Head Start program, elementary and secondary education programs, and higher education programs;
- increases funding for training and employment services;
- modifies provisions concerning the earned-income tax credit, the child tax credit, and unemployment assistance;
- increases funding for economic and community development programs;
- increases funding for environmental remediation; and
- otherwise modifies provisions related to emergency funding and disaster-recovery assistance.

In addition, the bill:

- extends Medicaid waiver authority to all territories, provides for Medicaid disproportionate share hospital allotments to the territories, and otherwise revises the Medicaid and Medicare programs with respect to the territories;
- extends participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to all territories;
- modifies provisions concerning the application of certain workers' protections in Puerto Rico; and
- requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to submit to Congress a long-term disaster-relief plan with respect to Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands.

## Actions Timeline

- **Nov 28, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 28, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.