

## S 771

### Improving Access To Affordable Prescription Drugs Act

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Mar 29, 2017

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 29, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/771>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]

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

### Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 29, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 29, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 3411	Related bill	<b>Sep 5, 2018:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
115 HR 6340	Related bill	<b>Jul 11, 2018:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
115 S 2478	Related bill	<b>Mar 1, 2018:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
115 S 2476	Related bill	<b>Feb 28, 2018:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
115 S 1688	Related bill	<b>Aug 1, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
115 HR 1776	Identical bill	<b>Apr 5, 2017:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
115 HR 1245	Related bill	<b>Mar 3, 2017:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
115 S 469	Related bill	<b>Feb 28, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
115 S 348	Related bill	<b>Feb 9, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
115 S 252	Related bill	<b>Feb 1, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

## Summary (as of Mar 29, 2017)

This bill amends provisions of various laws relating to prescription-drug pricing and affordability. Specifically, the bill:

- expands reporting requirements for drug manufacturers and establishes corresponding civil penalties for noncompliance;
- adds reporting requirements for certain nonprofit patient-assistance programs;
- requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to Congress on the impact of patient-assistance programs on prescription-drug pricing and expenditures;
- requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate prices for certain prescription drugs under the Medicare program;
- requires the GAO to report to Congress on such negotiations conducted by the CMS;
- requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation within the CMS to test specified models for negotiating drug prices;
- establishes reporting requirements, and corresponding civil penalties for noncompliance, for pharmaceutical companies with respect to spikes in prescription-drug prices;
- establishes an excise tax on prescription drugs subject to price spikes;
- lessens prescription-drug cost-sharing requirements under qualified health plans, group health plans, and the Medicare program;
- modifies provisions related to the importation of prescription drugs;
- requires drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to certain low-income individuals under the Medicare program;
- establishes a prize fund for new and more effective treatments of bacterial infections;
- establishes a Center for Clinical Research within the National Institutes of Health;
- modifies provisions related to drug exclusivity;
- allows the Federal Trade Commission to initiate enforcement proceedings against parties to an agreement resolving or settling a patent-infringement claim in connection with the sale of a drug product;
- requires the Food and Drug Administration to establish a database of generic drugs; and
- modifies other provisions related to generic drugs, prescription-drug advertising, and product hopping.

## Actions Timeline

- **Mar 29, 2017:** introduced in **Senate**
- **Mar 29, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the **Committee on Finance**.