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Prescription Drug Price Relief Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: Jan 10, 2019
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 10, 2019)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/102

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]
Party: Independent • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 10, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jan 10, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 10, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jan 10, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 10, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jul 23, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 10, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 465	Identical bill	**Jan 25, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Summary (as of Jan 10, 2019)

Prescription Drug Price Relief Act of 2019

This bill establishes a series of oversight and disclosure requirements relating to the prices of brand-name drugs. Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to review at least annually all brand-name drugs for excessive pricing; HHS must also review prices upon petition. If any such drugs are found to be excessively priced, HHS must (1) void any government-granted exclusivity; (2) issue open, nonexclusive licenses for the drugs; and (3) expedite the review of corresponding applications for generic drugs and biosimilar biological products. HHS must also create a public database with its determinations for each drug.

Under the bill, a price is considered excessive if the domestic average manufacturing price exceeds the median price for the drug in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Japan. If a price does not meet this criteria, or if pricing information is unavailable in at least three of the aforementioned countries, the price is still considered excessive if it is higher than reasonable in light of specified factors, including cost, revenue, and the size of the affected patient population.

The bill also requires drug manufacturers to report specified financial information for brand-name drugs, including research and advertising expenditures.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 10, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 10, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.