S 1895

Lower Health Care Costs Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: Jun 19, 2019
Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 133.
Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 133. (Jul 8, 2019)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1895

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]
Party: Republican • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 19, 2019
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Jul 16, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jul 8, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 7898	Related bill	**Jan 5, 2021:** Became Public Law No: 116-321.
116 S 1636	Related bill	**Dec 15, 2020:** Held at the desk.
116 HR 5668	Related bill	**Nov 18, 2020:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 HR 6155	Related bill	**Mar 9, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
116 HR 6005	Related bill	**Feb 27, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
116 HR 5386	Related bill	**Dec 11, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 5304	Related bill	**Dec 5, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 5321	Related bill	**Dec 5, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 5199	Related bill	**Nov 21, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 4955	Related bill	**Nov 1, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 2296	Related bill	**Sep 24, 2019:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 170.
116 HR 4400	Related bill	**Sep 20, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 HR 4215	Related bill	**Sep 3, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 S 1897	Related bill	**Jun 19, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 S 1793	Related bill	**Jun 12, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3365)
116 S 1805	Related bill	**Jun 12, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 S 1618	Related bill	**May 22, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 S 1619	Related bill	**May 22, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 HR 965	Related bill	**May 16, 2019:** Supplemental report filed by the Committee on the Judiciary, H. Rept. 116-55, Part III.
116 S 1391	Related bill	**May 9, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 S 1140	Related bill	**Apr 11, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 HR 2011	Related bill	**Apr 2, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
116 S 659	Related bill	**Mar 5, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 S 192	Related bill	**Jan 18, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Jul 8, 2019)

Lower Health Care Costs Act

This bill makes a series of changes relating to health care coverage, costs, and services.

Among other things, the bill

- applies in-network cost-sharing requirements to certain emergency and related nonemergency services that are provided out-of-network, and prohibits health care facilities and practitioners from billing above the applicable in-network cost-sharing rate for such services;
- revises certain requirements in order to expedite the approval of generics and biosimilars, including requirements relating to citizen petitions, application effective dates, and labeling;
- requires health care facilities and practitioners to give patients a list of provided services upon discharge and to bill for such services within 45 days;
- limits prices that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) may charge health insurers or enrollees for prescription drugs, based on prices paid by PBMs to pharmacies;
- establishes grant programs to support vaccinations and data modernization; and
- requires health insurers to make certain information, including estimated out-of-pocket costs, accessible to enrollees through specified technology (e.g., mobile applications).

The bill also makes several additional changes relating to public health, including raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 8, 2019:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Reported by Senator Alexander with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Jul 8, 2019:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 133.
- **Jun 26, 2019:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 19, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 19, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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