

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

## 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

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- **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.