

S 2650

Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Oct 21, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S5924-5925)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S5924-5925) (Oct 21, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2650>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Oct 21, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 21, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 4769	Identical bill	Oct 22, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act of 2019

This bill requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish at least one prescription drug plan that is operated by Medicare.

Among other things, the plan must (1) serve the entire United States; and (2) be the default plan for enrollees under the Medicare prescription drug benefit, unless the enrollee chooses another plan.

Additionally, the CMS must negotiate prices for prescription drugs that are covered under the plan and, if appropriate, encourage the use of more affordable therapeutic equivalents. (Currently, the CMS is prohibited from negotiating the prices of covered drugs under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.) The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality must assess the clinical benefits of drugs and make recommendations to the CMS regarding price negotiations, based on specified information (e.g., comparable international prices).

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 21, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
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