

S 1279

Medicare at 50 Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Apr 21, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Apr 21, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1279>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]

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

Cosponsors (19 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL] | D · IL | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL] | D · IL | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | D · MN | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA] | D · MA | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] | D · MI | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI] | D · RI | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN] | D · MN | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI] | D · RI | | Apr 21, 2021 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Apr 22, 2021 |
| Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT] | D · VT | | May 10, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Apr 21, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-----------|--------------|---|
| 117 S 833 | Related bill | Mar 18, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. |

Summary (as of Apr 21, 2021)

Medicare at 50 Act

This bill establishes a Medicare buy-in option for certain qualifying individuals and also repeals restrictions relating to prescription drug prices under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Specifically, the bill allows individuals aged 50 to 64 to enroll in Medicare if such individuals would otherwise qualify for Medicare at the age of 65. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must determine enrollment periods and set premiums for the buy-in option established under the bill, in accordance with specified requirements. The CMS must also award grants to states and nonprofit organizations for outreach and enrollment activities relating to the buy-in option.

The bill also repeals provisions that prohibit the CMS from negotiating the prices of prescription drugs or from establishing a formulary under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 21, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 21, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.