

S 1593

Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 12, 2021

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. (May 12, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1593>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		May 13, 2021
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		May 25, 2021
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		May 25, 2021
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		Sep 29, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 29, 2021
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Dec 15, 2021
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Dec 15, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jul 11, 2022
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Sep 7, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 12, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 5149	Related bill	Sep 6, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act of 2021

This bill requires the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to study access by underserved populations to general surgeons.

Specifically, HRSA must study (1) whether the health professional shortage area designation under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program accurately assesses adequacy of access to general surgeons, (2) whether another measure would be more accurate, and (3) potential methodologies for designating general surgery shortage areas. (The NHSC provides scholarships and student loan repayment awards to primary care, dental care, and mental health care providers who agree to work in areas that HRSA designates as having a shortage of those particular types of providers.)

HRSA must also publish data comparing the availability and need of general surgery services in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

On the basis of its study, HRSA may establish a methodology for designating general surgery shortage areas and make such designations. If any designations are made, HRSA must publish a list of general surgery shortage areas.

Actions Timeline

- **May 12, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 12, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.