

S 1898

Affordable Medications Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 27, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (May 27, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1898>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]

Party: Democratic • State: MN • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 27, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 27, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 27, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 27, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 27, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 27, 2021
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		May 27, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		May 27, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 27, 2021
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		May 27, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 27, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 27, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 27, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 27, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7828	Related bill	May 18, 2022: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
117 HR 6392	Related bill	Jan 13, 2022: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
117 S 3339	Related bill	Dec 8, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
117 HR 2181	Related bill	Mar 24, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
117 S 920	Related bill	Mar 23, 2021: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security. Hearings held.
117 S 141	Related bill	Jan 28, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary (as of May 27, 2021)

Affordable Medications Act

This bill revises and expands various requirements relating to prescription drug pricing and affordability.

Specifically, the bill expands financial reporting requirements for drug manufacturers and establishes corresponding civil penalties for noncompliance; it also adds reporting requirements for certain nonprofit patient-assistance programs.

Further, the bill requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate prices for certain prescription drugs under Medicare and requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation within the CMS to test specified models for negotiating drug prices. It also establishes reporting requirements, and corresponding civil penalties for noncompliance, for pharmaceutical companies with respect to spikes in prescription drug prices.

The bill establishes an excise tax on prescription drugs subject to price spikes, lessens prescription drug cost-sharing requirements under qualified health plans and group health plans, and modifies requirements for the importation of prescription drugs.

It also requires drug manufacturers to provide rebates for drugs dispensed to certain low-income individuals under the Medicare program and limits the time frame that trade agreements are required to provide market exclusivity for biological products.

Additionally, the bill (1) requires the Food and Drug Administration to establish a database of generic drugs; (2) modifies other provisions related to generic drugs, prescription drug advertising, disclosure of wholesale acquisition prices, and patent-infringement proceedings; and (3) revises certain time frames and conditions related to drug exclusivity.

Finally, it establishes an innovation incentive fund for new or more effective treatments of bacterial infections and establishes the Center for Clinical Research within the National Institutes of Health.

Actions Timeline

- **May 27, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 27, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.