

## S 1988

### Protecting Rural Telehealth Access Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jun 9, 2021

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jun 9, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1988>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]

**Party:** Independent • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Jul 26, 2021
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jul 26, 2021
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 27, 2021
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Aug 4, 2021
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Sep 20, 2021
Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY]	R · WY		Oct 7, 2021
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Nov 30, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jan 10, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 9, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 5425	Related bill	<b>Sep 30, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
117 HR 4918	Related bill	<b>Aug 4, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Protecting Rural Telehealth Access Act**

This bill expands coverage of telehealth services under Medicare.

Specifically, the bill permanently (1) removes geographic restrictions on originating sites (i.e., the location of the beneficiary), (2) allows the home of the beneficiary to serve as the originating site for all services, (3) allows federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics to serve as the distant site (i.e., the location of the health care practitioner), and (4) expands coverage to include audio-only services for evaluation and management and behavioral health services.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 9, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 9, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.