

HR 2181

Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 23, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Mar 24, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2181>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]

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

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Bush, Cori [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Mar 23, 2021
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Mar 26, 2021
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		May 7, 2021
Rep. Mrvan, Frank J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Apr 14, 2022
Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17]	D · NY		May 10, 2022
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jun 3, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 24, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 1898	Related bill	May 27, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
117 S 920	Identical bill	Mar 23, 2021: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security. Hearings held.

Summary (as of Mar 23, 2021)

Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act

This bill allows expanded importation of eligible prescription drugs and addresses related issues.

Current law allows the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to authorize the importation of certain eligible prescription drugs from Canada if HHS certifies to Congress that doing so would pose no additional risk to public health and safety and would result in significant cost savings for consumers. The bill removes this certification requirement and requires HHS to issue regulations that permit the importation of qualifying prescription drugs from Canada. After a certain amount of time, HHS may authorize importation from certain other countries if it determines that importation from Canada has resulted in cost savings for consumers and increased access to safe medication.

The bill also expands the types of prescription drugs eligible for importation to include, for example, biologics such as insulin.

Furthermore, the bill allows individuals to use an eligible licensed foreign pharmacy to fill a U.S.-issued prescription for a qualifying drug for personal use. Currently, an individual seeking to import a prescription drug generally must acquire a waiver from HHS.

The bill imposes various requirements related to certification of foreign sellers, labeling of imported drugs, and supply chain security.

The bill also (1) prohibits certain acts that discriminate against foreign sellers, such as charging higher prices to foreign sellers than to other sellers in the same country; and (2) imposes criminal penalties for online websites that sell counterfeit drugs or dispense drugs without a required prescription.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 24, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Mar 23, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 23, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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