

S 236

Tracking COVID-19 Variants Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 4, 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. (Feb 4, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/236>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

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

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 4, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 4, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 4, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 4, 2021
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 4, 2021
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 25, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 4, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 791	Identical bill	Feb 5, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Tracking COVID-19 Variants Act

This bill expands viral genomic sequencing, disease surveillance, and other public health research activities.

Specifically, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) must issue guidance on the sequencing of the virus that causes COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019). Additionally, the CDC must establish a program to strengthen genomic sequencing, analytics, and disease surveillance activities. As part of this program, the CDC must provide grants and technical assistance to health departments to build their capacity to carry out such activities.

Furthermore, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) must carry out a demonstration program to expand an existing program that links different federal data sets for statistical public health research, including research on food insecurity, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. In particular, the program must support linkages with the National Death Index, a database of death records maintained by the NCHS.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 4, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 4, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.