

HR 3322

Medicare Patient Empowerment Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 18, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (May 19, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3322>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-17]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	May 19, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	May 18, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 826	Identical bill	Mar 18, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Medicare Patient Empowerment Act of 2021

This bill allows any Medicare beneficiary to enter into a contract with an eligible professional, regardless of whether the professional is a participating or non-participating physician or practitioner, for any item or service covered by Medicare.

Such beneficiaries may submit a claim for Medicare payment in the amount that would otherwise apply, except that, where the professional is considered to be non-participating, payment shall be paid as if the professional were participating. An eligible professional is a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse-midwife, clinical social worker, clinical psychologist, registered dietitian or nutrition professional, physical or occupational therapist, qualified speech-language pathologist, or qualified audiologist.

A Medicare beneficiary must agree in writing in such a contract to (1) pay the eligible professional for a Medicare-covered item or service; and (2) submit, in lieu of the eligible professional, a claim for Medicare payment. However, a beneficiary may negotiate, as a term of the contract, for the eligible professional to file such claims on the beneficiary's behalf.

The bill preempts state laws from limiting the amount of charges for physician and practitioner services for which Medicare payment is made.

Actions Timeline

- **May 19, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **May 18, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **May 18, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.