

## HR 5149

Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Sep 3, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Sep 6, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5149>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8]	R · IN		Sep 3, 2021
Rep. Mullin, Markwayne [R-OK-2]	R · OK		Sep 3, 2021
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Sep 3, 2021
Rep. Wild, Susan [D-PA-7]	D · PA		Apr 7, 2022
Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]	R · NE		Apr 26, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 6, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Health

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 1593	Related bill	<b>May 12, 2021:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## Ensuring Access to General Surgery Act of 2021

This bill requires the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to study access by underserved populations to general surgeons.

Specifically, HRSA must study (1) whether the health professional shortage area designation under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program accurately assesses adequacy of access to general surgeons, (2) whether another measure would be more accurate, and (3) potential methodologies for designating general surgery shortage areas. (The NHSC provides scholarships and student loan repayment awards to primary care, dental care, and mental health care providers who agree to work in areas that HRSA designates as having a shortage of those particular types of providers.)

HRSA must also publish data comparing the availability and need of general surgery services in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

On the basis of its study, HRSA may establish a methodology for designating general surgery shortage areas and make such designations. If any designations are made, HRSA must publish a list of general surgery shortage areas.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 6, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Sep 3, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 3, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.