

## HR 56

### Patient Access to Medical Foods Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** Jan 4, 2021

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

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Feb 2, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/56>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 4, 2021
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 3, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 4, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of Jan 4, 2021)

#### Patient Access to Medical Foods Act

This bill provides for coverage of medical foods under Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and TRICARE. The bill also requires private health insurance providers to cover medical foods.

Generally, a medical food is a food prescribed by a physician for the dietary management of a disease or condition. The bill expands this definition to include a food prescribed as a therapeutic option when a physician determines that traditional therapies are inappropriate for the patient. This definition shall apply to the insurance programs described above and to a federal grant program to encourage the development of drugs and medical foods for rare diseases.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 2, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Armed Services, 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.
- **Jan 4, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.