

## S 1636

### Protecting Rural Telehealth Access Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** May 17, 2023

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (May 17, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1636>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]

**Party:** Independent • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (5 total)

| Cosponsor                         | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]           | R · IA        |      | May 17, 2023 |
| Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]          | R · KS        |      | May 17, 2023 |
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]       | D · NH        |      | May 17, 2023 |
| Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV] | R · WV        |      | May 30, 2023 |
| Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]         | R · ND        |      | May 30, 2023 |

### Committee Activity

| Committee         | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate  | Referred To | May 17, 2023 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Health

### Related Bills

| Bill        | Relationship   | Last Action  |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 118 HR 3440 | Identical bill | <b>Dec 17, 2024:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. |

## **Protecting Rural Telehealth Access Act**

This bill expands coverage of telehealth services under Medicare.

Specifically, the bill permanently (1) removes geographic restrictions on originating sites (i.e., the location of the beneficiary), (2) allows the home of the beneficiary to serve as the originating site for all services, (3) allows federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics to serve as the distant site (i.e., the location of the health care practitioner), and (4) expands coverage to include audio-only services for evaluation and management and behavioral health services.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 17, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 17, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.