

S 4641

A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: May 21, 2026

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (May 21, 2026)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/4641>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]

Party: Republican • **State:** ME • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		May 21, 2026
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		May 21, 2026
Sen. Britt, Katie Boyd [R-AL]	R · AL		Jun 15, 2026
Sen. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 23, 2026
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 23, 2026
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 28, 2026

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 21, 2026

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 3954	Related bill	Jun 12, 2025: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.

Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2026

This bill deems an individual receiving outpatient observation services in a hospital as an inpatient for purposes of satisfying the three-day inpatient hospital-stay requirement with respect to Medicare coverage of skilled nursing facility (SNF) services. (Generally, individuals must have been an inpatient at a hospital for at least three days in order to qualify for SNF services. An individual's time spent under observation at a hospital for purposes of determining whether the individual should be admitted does not count towards this requirement.)

Actions Timeline

- **May 21, 2026:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 21, 2026:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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