



## House Passes Opioid Bills – More Bills Next Week; Senate Finance Committee Approves Opioid Package

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June 15, 2018

### House

The House approved 30+ opioid bills this week.

- Click [here](#) for a press release from the House Energy and Commerce Committee summarizing bills passed on June 12; click [here](#) for bills passed on June 13 - 15.
- Bills that were passed that we previously identified as impacting clinical practice or authorizing grants include:
  - [H.R. 5009](#), Jessie's Law: Ensures medical professionals have access to a consenting patient's complete health history; requires HHS to develop and disseminate best practices regarding the prominent display of substance use disorder history in patient records.
  - [H.R. 5041](#) Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act: Allows hospice workers to dispose of unused controlled substances in patients' homes.
  - [H.R. 5483](#), Special Registration for Telemedicine Clarification Act: Requires waiver process for special registrations for health care providers to prescribe controlled substances via telemedicine in emergency situations.
  - [H.R. 5176](#), Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms (POWER) Act: Provides resources for hospitals to develop protocols on discharging patients who have presented with an opioid overdose.
  - [H.R. 3331](#) promotes the testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of CEHRT.
  - [H.R. 5327](#), Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act: Authorizes grants for entities to establish or operate comprehensive opioid recovery centers.

Voting in the House continues next week.

- While the House is voting on many bills individually, some bills approved by the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees have been combined and included in [H.R. 6](#), the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. Click [here](#) for a summary of H.R. 6.

- The Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act – supported by Premier and the American Hospital Association – is now [H.R. 6082](#). The bill aligns substance abuse disorder privacy records with HIPAA for the purposes of health care treatment, payment and operations and allows for the sharing of substance use records among covered entities.
- The Rules Committee meets next week to consider amendments to H.R. 6 and H.R. 6082..
- Click [here](#) for the Congressional Budget Office’s estimates on costs of the individual bills.

## Senate

The Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved a package of opioid bills on Tuesday, entitled HEAL, Helping to End Addiction and Lessen Substance Use Disorders Act.

- Click [here](#) for the Chairman’s Mark summarizing the provisions; click [here](#) for modifications to the Chairman’s Mark.
- Provisions include:
  - Eliminating Medicare geographic restrictions on the originating sites of telehealth services for the treatment of substance use disorders.
  - Expanding e-prescribing in Part D.
  - Requiring HHS to identify and notify outlier prescribers of opioids in Part D.
  - Prohibiting states from imposing lifetime limits on medication-assisted treatment in Medicaid.
- Two amendments were approved:
  - Senator Toomey’s (R-PA) amendment to require CMS to identify Medicare enrollees with a history of opioid-related overdoses and to include such enrollees as potentially at-risk beneficiaries for prescription drug abuse (thus including these enrollees in the Overutilization Monitoring Program).
  - Senator Brown’s (D-OH) amendment to allow Part D beneficiaries in a lock-in plan to auto-escalate their appeals.
- Click [here](#) for the Congressional Budget Office’s preliminary cost estimates.
- [S. 2843](#), the Opioid Workforce Act, to add 1000 residency slots for addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry or pain management was not included in the package. Senator Nelson (D-FL) hopes to offer the bill when the full Senate considers opioid legislation.

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