

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1818

To significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2025

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Prescription Drug  
5       Price Relief Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF EXCESSIVELY PRICED DRUGS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the  
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish  
4 a process to conduct a review of all brand name drugs,  
5 not less frequently than once per calendar year, under  
6 which the Secretary determines under subsection (b)  
7 whether the price of each such drug is excessive.

8 (b) EXCESSIVE PRICE DETERMINATIONS.—

9 (1) INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE PRICE.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall de-  
11 termine that any brand name drug for which  
12 the domestic average manufacturing price ex-  
13 ceeds the median price charged for such drug in  
14 the 5 reference countries to have an excessive  
15 price. In assessing the extent to which the price  
16 is excessive, the Secretary shall consider the  
17 factors described in paragraph (2).

18 (B) REFERENCE COUNTRIES.—In this Act,  
19 the term “reference countries” means Canada,  
20 the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and  
21 Japan.

22 (C) REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO  
23 DRUGS FOR WHICH CERTAIN REFERENCE COUN-  
24 TRY INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE.—The  
25 Secretary shall make a determination under  
26 paragraph (1) for every brand name drug for

1           which pricing information is available for at  
2           least 3 of the 5 reference countries.

3           (2) DETERMINATIONS BASED ON OTHER FAC-  
4           TORS.—With respect to any brand name drug that  
5           is not determined to have an excessive price by oper-  
6           ation of paragraph (1) (including any drug for which  
7           there is insufficient data to make such a determina-  
8           tion under such paragraph), the Secretary shall de-  
9           termine that such drug has an excessive price if the  
10          price of the drug is higher than reasonable taking  
11          into account the following factors:

12                   (A) The size of the affected patient popu-  
13                   lation.

14                   (B) The value of the drug to patients, in-  
15                   cluding the impact of the price on access to the  
16                   drug and the relationship of the price of the  
17                   drug to its therapeutic health benefits.

18                   (C) The risk adjusted value of Federal  
19                   Government subsidies and investments related  
20                   to the drug.

21                   (D) The costs associated with development  
22                   of the drug.

23                   (E) Whether the drug provided a signifi-  
24                   cant improvement in health outcomes, com-

pared to other therapies available at the time of its approval.

(F) The cumulative global revenues generated by the drug.

(G) Whether the domestic average manufacturer price of the drug increased during any annual quarter by a percentage that is more than the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers for the respective annual quarter.

(H) Other factors the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) PETITION FOR DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person may petition the Secretary, in accordance with section 553(e) of title 5, United States Code, to make an excessive drug price determination for an applicable drug under subsection (b)(2). Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of such a petition, subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) make a determination under subsection (b)(2) regarding such drug; or

(B)(i) decline to make such a determination; and

1 (ii) make public the reasons why the Sec-  
 2 retary has declined to make such a determina-  
 3 tion.

4 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not make  
 5 a determination under subsection (b)(2) for a drug  
 6 in response to a petition under this section more fre-  
 7 quently than once per calendar year.

8 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary  
 9 shall make any petitions submitted under this sub-  
 10 section, together with any documentation related to  
 11 the petitions and the Secretary's determinations on  
 12 such petitions and rationale for such determinations,  
 13 publicly available, including by posting such informa-  
 14 tion on the database under section 5.

15 **SEC. 3. ENDING GOVERNMENT-GRANTED MONOPOLIES FOR**  
 16 **EXCESSIVELY PRICED DRUGS.**

17 (a) EXCESSIVE DRUG PRICE AUTHORITY.—With re-  
 18 spect to any brand name drug, if the Secretary determines  
 19 under section 2 that the price of the drug is excessive,  
 20 the Secretary—

21 (1) shall waive or void any government-granted  
 22 exclusivities with respect to such drug, effective on  
 23 the date that the excessive price determination under  
 24 section 2 is made for such drug; and

1           (2) shall grant open, non-exclusive licenses al-  
2           lowing any person to make, use, offer to sell or sell,  
3           or import into the United States such drug, and to  
4           rely upon the regulatory test data of such drug, in  
5           accordance with section 4.

6           (b) EXPEDITED REVIEW.—The Secretary shall  
7           prioritize the review of, and act within 8 months of the  
8           date of the submission of a generic drug application or  
9           a biosimilar biological product application if such applica-  
10          tion references a drug licensed under subsection (a)(2).

11          (c) CIVIL ACTIONS.—If the Secretary determines that  
12          the manufacturer of an excessively priced drug (as deter-  
13          mined under section 2(a)) has increased the price of such  
14          drug during the period beginning on the date on which  
15          such price determination is made and ending on the date  
16          on which an entity begins manufacturing the drug under  
17          an open, non-exclusive license under subsection (a)(2), the  
18          Secretary may file a civil action in the United States dis-  
19          trict court for the district in which the manufacturer is  
20          located, or in the United States district court for the Dis-  
21          trict of Columbia, to recover damages in an amount equal  
22          to not less than the total amount of revenue derived by  
23          the manufacturer as a result of any such price increase  
24          during such period. In actions brought under this sub-  
25          section, the district courts shall have jurisdiction to grant

1 all appropriate relief including injunctive relief and com-  
 2 pensatory damages.

3 **SEC. 4. EXCESSIVE DRUG PRICE LICENSE.**

4 (a) REASONABLE ROYALTY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity accepting an open,  
 6 non-exclusive license under section 3(a)(2) shall pay  
 7 a reasonable royalty to the holder of a patent that  
 8 claims the drug or that claims a use of the drug or  
 9 to the holder of an application approved under sub-  
 10 section 505(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-  
 11 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(c)) or section 351(a) of  
 12 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a))  
 13 for which any government-granted exclusivity with  
 14 respect to the drug was terminated under section  
 15 3(a)(1).

16 (2) ROYALTY RATE.—Such royalty rate shall  
 17 be—

18 (A) a percentage of sales, where the per-  
 19 centage rate is no higher than the average roy-  
 20 alty rate estimated from the data provided by  
 21 the Internal Revenue Service for pharma-  
 22 ceutical manufacturer Federal income tax re-  
 23 turns; or

24 (B) an amount as determined by the Sec-  
 25 retary, taking into account—

1 (i) the value of the drug to patients;

2 (ii) the size of the affected patient  
3 population;

4 (iii) the risk adjusted value of the  
5 Federal Government subsidies and invest-  
6 ments related to the drug;

7 (iv) whether the drug provided a sig-  
8 nificant improvement in health outcomes,  
9 compared to other therapies available at  
10 the time of the approval;

11 (v) the extent to which the brand  
12 name drug manufacturer has recovered  
13 risk adjusted investments related to the  
14 drug, including the investments related to  
15 the invention, regulatory test data, and  
16 any other relevant research and develop-  
17 ment costs; and

18 (vi) any other information the Sec-  
19 retary determines appropriate.

20 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A royalty rate under sub-  
22 section (a) shall be consistent with making drugs  
23 available to purchasers, including Federal, State,  
24 local, and nongovernmental purchasers and individ-  
25 uals, at prices that are affordable and reasonable.



1 Under no condition shall a royalty be set at a rate  
 2 that would cause a product for which an open, non-  
 3 exclusive license was issued under section 3 to be  
 4 sold at an excessive price, as determined under sec-  
 5 tion 2.

6 (2) MULTIPLE AFFECTED PARTIES.—In the  
 7 case that there is one or more holders or investors  
 8 in the patented inventions related to the drug in ad-  
 9 dition to the brand name manufacturer, the royalty  
 10 rate shall be divided among the holders or investors  
 11 (including such manufacturer) in a manner agreed  
 12 upon by the manufacturer and other holders or in-  
 13 vestors, or, in the absence of such an agreement, in  
 14 a manner the Secretary determines to be appro-  
 15 priate.

16 (3) PRICE.—An entity accepting an open, non-  
 17 exclusive license under section 3(a)(2) shall sell the  
 18 drug at a price below the excessive price determined  
 19 for that drug under section 2(b).

20 **SEC. 5. PUBLIC EXCESSIVE DRUG PRICE DATABASE.**

21 (a) EXCESSIVE DRUG PRICE DATABASE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
 23 and maintain a comprehensive, up-to-date database  
 24 of brand name drugs and the excessive price deter-  
 25 minations for such drugs under section 2.

1           (2) CONTENTS.—The database shall include, at  
2           a minimum, for each brand name drug, for the ap-  
3           plicable calendar year—

4                   (A) the name of the drug;

5                   (B) the manufacturer;

6                   (C) whether the drug was determined  
7           under section 2(b) to have an excessive price;

8                   (D) the number of petitions the Secretary  
9           received under section 2(c) to make an exces-  
10          sive price determination for the drug, together  
11          with the information described in section  
12          2(c)(3);

13                  (E) the number of open, non-exclusive li-  
14          censes the Secretary has granted under section  
15          3(a)(2) for generic drug or biosimilar biological  
16          product versions of the drug; and

17                  (F) the number of applications under sub-  
18          section (b)(2) or (j) of section 505 of the Fed-  
19          eral Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.  
20          355) or under section 351(k) of the Public  
21          Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)) sub-  
22          mitted to the Secretary, pursuant to such a li-  
23          cense granted under section 3(a)(2), and the  
24          number of such applications that have been ap-  
25          proved.

1           (3) CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.—With respect  
2       to a determination made under section 2(b)(1), the  
3       Secretary shall publish on the database such deter-  
4       mination in accordance with paragraph (1) within  
5       30 days of receiving domestic and international pric-  
6       ing information from manufacturers under section 6.

7       (b) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later  
8       than 60 days after the first excessive price review under  
9       section 2 is complete, and annually thereafter, the Sec-  
10      retary shall submit to Congress a report describing the  
11      excessive drug price review for the preceding year. The  
12      report shall contain summary data regarding—

13           (1) the total number of drugs that were re-  
14      viewed;

15           (2) the total number of drugs determined to be  
16      excessively priced under each of paragraphs (1) and  
17      (2) of section 2(b), and the name and manufacturer  
18      of each such drug;

19           (3) the total number of drugs determined to be  
20      excessively priced, listed by manufacturer;

21           (4) the extent to which the prices of the drugs  
22      identified under section 2 were higher than reason-  
23      able, on average;

1           (5) the total number of drugs for which an  
2       open, non-exclusive license has been granted under  
3       section 3(a)(2);

4           (6) the total number of generic drug or bio-  
5       similar biological product applications received and  
6       approved that reference a drug so licensed;

7           (7) the median approval time for generic drug  
8       or biosimilar biological product applications that ref-  
9       erence a drug so licensed;

10          (8) the total number of petitions the Secretary  
11       received under section 2(c) to make excessive price  
12       determinations for drugs;

13          (9) a list of any manufacturers who failed to re-  
14       port information as required under section 6; and

15          (10) other appropriate information, as the Sec-  
16       retary determines or as Congress requests.

17       (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall  
18       make the information in the database described in sub-  
19       section (a) and the report in subsection (b) publicly avail-  
20       able, including on the website of the Food and Drug Ad-  
21       ministration, in a manner that is easy to find and under-  
22       stand.

23       **SEC. 6. DRUG MANUFACTURER REPORTING.**

24       (a) IN GENERAL.—Each manufacturer shall submit  
25       to the Secretary, in such format as the Secretary may re-

1   quire, an annual report that includes the following infor-  
2   mation for each brand name drug of the manufacturer,  
3   with respect to the previous calendar year:

4           (1) The average manufacturer price of the drug  
5       in the United States and in the reference countries,  
6       for the entire year, and broken down for each quar-  
7       ter of the year.

8           (2) The wholesale acquisition cost of the drug  
9       in the United States and in the reference countries,  
10      for the entire year, and broken down for each quar-  
11      ter of the year.

12          (3) Cumulative global revenues generated by  
13      the drug.

14          (4) Annual net sales revenue generated by the  
15      drug in the United States and in the reference coun-  
16      tries, for the entire year, and broken down for each  
17      quarter of the year.

18          (5) Total expenditures on domestic and foreign  
19      drug research and development related to the drug,  
20      itemized by—

21              (A) basic and preclinical research;

22              (B) clinical research, reported separately  
23      for each clinical trial;

1 (C) development of alternative dosage  
2 forms and strengths for the drug molecule or  
3 combinations, including the molecule;

4 (D) other drug development activities, such  
5 as nonclinical laboratory studies and record and  
6 report maintenance;

7 (E) pursuing new or expanded indications  
8 for such drug through supplemental applica-  
9 tions under section 505 of the Federal Food,  
10 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355); and

11 (F) carrying out postmarket requirements  
12 related to such drug, including under section  
13 505(o)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-  
14 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(o)(3)).

15 (6) Total expenditures on domestic and foreign  
16 marketing and advertising related to the drug.

17 (7) Investments in human clinical trials related  
18 to the drug, by each trial and each year, including  
19 grants, research contracts, tax credits or deductions,  
20 and reimbursements from public or private health  
21 plans or insurance, and any other public sector sub-  
22 sidies or incentives, such as the fair market value or  
23 priority review vouchers or other considerations.

24 (8) The estimated size of the affected patient  
25 population.

1           (9) Additional information the manufacturer  
2 chooses to provide related to drug pricing decisions,  
3 such as information related to the methodology used  
4 to set the price of the drug.

5           (10) Additional information as the Secretary  
6 determines necessary to carry out this Act, including  
7 information for previous years.

8           (b) REPORT DUE DATE.—Applicable manufacturers  
9 shall submit the reports described in subsection (a) not  
10 later than January 15 of the year following the date of  
11 enactment of this Act, and of each year thereafter.

12          (c) PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—Any manufacturer that fails  
14 to submit information for a drug as required by this  
15 section on a timely basis or that knowingly provides  
16 false information shall be liable for a civil monetary  
17 penalty, as determined by the Secretary under para-  
18 graph (2), in addition to any other penalty under  
19 other applicable provisions of law.

20           (2) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount of a  
21 civil penalty under paragraph (1) shall be equal to  
22 the product of—

23                   (A) an amount, as determined appropriate  
24 by the Secretary, which is—

1 (i) not less than 0.5 percent of the  
 2 gross revenues from sales for the previous  
 3 calendar year of the drug for which the in-  
 4 formation was not submitted; and

5 (ii) not greater than 1 percent of the  
 6 gross revenues from sales for the previous  
 7 calendar year of such drug; and

8 (B) the number of days in the period be-  
 9 tween—

10 (i) the report due date under sub-  
 11 section (b); and

12 (ii) the date on which the Secretary  
 13 receives the information required to be re-  
 14 ported by the manufacturer under this sec-  
 15 tion.

16 (3) USE OF CIVIL PENALTY.—The Secretary  
 17 shall collect the civil penalties under this subsection  
 18 and shall use such funds to support competitive re-  
 19 search grant programs of the National Institutes of  
 20 Health.

21 **SEC. 7. PROHIBITION OF ANTICOMPETITIVE BEHAVIOR.**

22 No manufacturer may engage in anticompetitive be-  
 23 havior violating section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Com-  
 24 mission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(a)) with another manufacturer  
 25 that may interfere with the issuance and implementation



1 of open, non-exclusive licenses under this Act or otherwise  
 2 run contrary to the public interest in the availability of  
 3 affordable prescription drugs.

4 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

5 For the purposes of this Act:

6 (1) AVERAGE MANUFACTURER PRICE.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “average  
 8 manufacturer price”, with respect to a drug,  
 9 subject to subparagraph (B), has the meaning  
 10 given such term in section 1927(k)(1) of the  
 11 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8(k)(1));  
 12 or with respect to a drug for which there is no  
 13 average manufacturer price as so defined, such  
 14 term shall mean the wholesale acquisition cost  
 15 (as defined in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the  
 16 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–  
 17 3a(c)(6)(B))) of the drug.

18 (B) APPLICATION TO REFERENCE COUN-  
 19 TRIES.—With respect to reference countries,  
 20 the term “average manufacturer price”, as de-  
 21 fined in subparagraph (A), shall be determined  
 22 based on the price of the drug in the applicable  
 23 reference country.

24 (2) BIOSIMILAR BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT.—The  
 25 term “biosimilar biological product” means a biologi-

1 cal product licensed pursuant to an application  
2 under section 351(k) of the Public Health Service  
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)).

4 (3) BRAND NAME DRUG.—The term “brand  
5 name drug” means a drug—

6 (A) that is approved pursuant to an appli-  
7 cation under section (b)(1) of the Federal Food,  
8 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1))  
9 or that is licensed under section 351(a) of the  
10 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a));

11 (B) that is subject to section 503(b)(1) of  
12 the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21  
13 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)); and

14 (C) that is claimed in a patent, or a use  
15 of which is claimed in a patent.

16 (4) GENERIC DRUG.—The term “generic drug”  
17 means a drug approved pursuant to an application  
18 under section (b)(2) or (j) of the Federal Food,  
19 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355).

20 (5) GOVERNMENT-GRANTED EXCLUSIVITY.—  
21 The term “government-granted exclusivity” means  
22 prohibitions on the submission or approval of drug  
23 applications granted under any of the following:

1 (A) Clauses (ii) through (v) of section  
2 505(c)(3)(E) of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
3 Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(c)(3)(E)).

4 (B) Section 505(j)(5)(B)(iv) of the Federal  
5 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.  
6 355(j)(5)(B)(iv)) or clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of  
7 section 505(j)(5)(F) of such Act.

8 (C) Section 505A of the Federal Food,  
9 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355a).

10 (D) Section 505E of the Federal Food,  
11 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355f).

12 (E) Section 527 of the Federal Food,  
13 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360cc).

14 (F) Section 351(k)(7) of the Public Health  
15 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)(7)).

16 (G) Any other provision of law that pro-  
17 vides for exclusivity (or extension of exclusivity)  
18 with respect to a drug.

19 (6) MANUFACTURER.—The term “manufac-  
20 turer” means the holder of an application approved  
21 under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
22 Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) or of a license issued  
23 under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act  
24 (42 U.S.C. 262).

1           (7) OPEN, NON-EXCLUSIVE LICENSE.—The  
2       term “open, non-exclusive license” means a license  
3       that authorizes any person to use a patent held by  
4       a manufacturer that claims a brand name drug or  
5       a use of a brand name drug or rely upon regulatory  
6       test data for such drug, including patents held in  
7       common by the manufacturer and other entities,  
8       needed to produce, manufacture, import, export, dis-  
9       tribute, offer in liquidation, sell, buy, or use such  
10      brand name drug.

11           (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
12      the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

○