

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3558

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the state of hospital infrastructure in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the state of hospital infrastructure in the United States, and for other purposes.

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 “21st Century Hospitals
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. HHS STUDY ON HOSPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

7 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human
8 Services, in consultation with State departments of health

1 and other public health entities, shall conduct a study on
2 the state of hospital infrastructure in the United States.

3 (b) TOPICS.—The study under subsection (a) shall
4 include the following:

5 (1) An assessment of barriers to accessing cap-
6 ital for infrastructure at hospitals serving vulnerable
7 populations, such as hospitals described in section
8 1886(d)(5)(F)(i) of the Social Security Act (42
9 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(F)(i), relating to dispro-
10 portionate share payments), sole community hospitals
11 (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii) of such Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(F)(i)), critical access hos-
13 pitals (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of such
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm)(1)), and public hospitals,
15 including—

16 (A) recommendations for addressing such
17 barriers, which may include recommendations
18 for grants or low-cost borrowing vehicles;

19 (B) analysis of the impact of such barriers
20 on managing infrastructure at such hospitals,
21 including with respect to life-safety issues and
22 emergency preparedness; and

23 (C) identification of public funds that are
24 available for—

1 (i) bringing such hospitals into com-
2 pliance with applicable laws; and

3 (ii) ensuring that such hospitals and
4 the communities they serve are appro-
5 priately prepared for responding to emer-
6 gencies including public health emer-
7 gencies.

8 (2) An assessment of the state of health infor-
9 mation technology at hospitals in the United States,
10 including—

11 (A) the state of electronic medical records
12 and the dependence of hospitals and health sys-
13 tems on technology that is outdated or de-
14 bunked; and

15 (B) barriers associated with updating
16 health information technology, including with
17 respect to hardware, software, administrative
18 burden, staff training, and associated costs.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services shall complete the study under this sec-
22 tion and submit a report on the results of such study to
23 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House

1 of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
2 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

