



# COVID-19 Public Health & Safety Legislative Update

Last Updated: January 21, 2021

The following legislative tracker provides an update on COVID-19 public health and safety-related bills introduced in the 117th Congress. Each of the listed bill numbers contains a hyperlink to the Congress.gov website for additional information.

## Bills by Issue

### COVID I Public Health & Safety (6)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	FN Outlook
HR 98	Introduced In House 2021 01 04	In House	6.4% 0.0%
<b>Title</b> COVID-19 Victims Compensation Fund Act		<b>Bill Summary:</b> Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 7, 2021, 4:20 PM The COVID-19 Victims Compensation Fund Act would create a fund modeled on the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund to provide financial relief to those who fell ill from or the families of those lost to COVID-19. The bill would allow individuals and families to receive compensation for both economic costs due to loss of employment, medical expenses, and loss of business, as well as provide for physical and emotional pain and suffering inflicted by COVID-19.	
<b>Primary Sponsors</b> Adriano Espaillat		<b>Introduction Date:</b> 2021-01-04	
Bill Number	Last Action	Status	FN Outlook
HR 212	Introduced In House 2021 01 05	In House	7.7% 0.0%
<b>Title</b> To require Federal agencies to submit plans for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.		<b>Bill Summary:</b> Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 7, 2021, 4:26 PM The COVID Preparedness, Response, and Effective Planning for Advanced Requirements by the Executive Branch (PREPARE) Act, H.R. 212, would require federal agencies to submit regular reports to Congress on the ongoing steps they are taking to address the COVID-19 pandemic as we face new challenges, address new needs, and deploy COVID-19 vaccines across the country. These reports would detail all COVID-19 response and vaccine deployment plans related to the agency's mission, including measurable goals, anticipated challenges, how they will consult with Congress, and any resources they need to carry out their work.	
<b>Primary Sponsors</b> Brad Schneider		<b>Introduction Date:</b> 2021-01-05	
<b>Organizational Notes</b>			
Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 7, 2021, 4:24 PM Press Release: <a href="https://schneider.house.gov/media/press-releases/schneider-s-top-priority-defeating-covid-19-first-bill-new-congress">https://schneider.house.gov/media/press-releases/schneider-s-top-priority-defeating-covid-19-first-bill-new-congress</a>			

Bill Number

HR 318

Last Action

Referred To The Committee On Energy And Commerce And In Addition To The Committee On Ways And Means 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 2021 01 13

Status

In House

FN Outlook

5.4%

0.0%

**Title**

To amend title XVIII to provide coverage and payment for certain tests and assistive telehealth consultations during the COVID-19 emergency period, and for other purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**

David Schweikert

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 14, 2021, 4:38 PM  
The Safe Testing at Residence Telehealth (START) Act would provide robust at-home COVID-19 testing for seniors and other vulnerable populations. It would amend the Social Security Act by adding coverage and payment for Medicare beneficiaries to receive U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved at-home tests. The approved tests would help diagnose or discount a diagnosis of COVID-19 or other similar respiratory infection and be done in conjunction with an assistive telehealth consultation.

**Introduction Date:** 2021-01-13

Bill Number

HR 321

Last Action

Introduced In House 2021 01 13

Status

In House

FN Outlook

5.4%

0.0%

**Title**

To authorize the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to approve State, local, and Indian tribal government plans to partner with small and mid-size restaurants and nonprofit organizations to provide nutritious meals to individuals in need, to waive certain matching fund requirements, and for other purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**

Mike Thompson

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 14, 2021, 4:33 PM  
The FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries (FEED) Act would allow the Federal government to pay 100 percent of the cost to states and localities so that they can partner with restaurants and nonprofits to prepare nutritious meals for vulnerable populations, such as seniors and underprivileged children. These partnerships will support businesses and small farmers as the Coronavirus pandemic continues.

**Introduction Date:** 2021-01-13

Bill Number

HR 330

Last Action

Introduced In House 2021 01 15

Status

In House

FN Outlook

6.4%

0.0%

**Title**

To direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist States and local governments with the distribution and tracking of vaccines for COVID-19, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national program to oversee the collection and maintenance of all Federal and State data on vaccinations of individuals in the United States for COVID-19 to achieve mass vaccination saturation immunity, and for other purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**

Sheila Jackson Lee

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 21, 2021, 3:39 PM

**Introduction Date:** 2021-01-15

Bill Number

HR 341

Last Action

Introduced In House 2021 01 15

Status

In House

FN Outlook

6.4%

0.0%

#### Title

To make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities established in response to COVID-19.

#### Primary Sponsors

Roger Williams

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 21, 2021, 3:39 PM  
The Ensuring Telehealth Expansion Act would extend telehealth provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities (CARES) Act through December 31, 2025. Currently, telehealth waivers and flexibilities are extended through December 31, 2021 under the CARES Act. The legislation would also eliminate site restrictions for telehealth so that patients can receive care in their homes and providers will be reimbursed at payment rates equal to those of face to face visits.

**Introduction Date:** 2021-01-15

#### Organizational Notes

Last edited by TFG Reports at Jan 21, 2021, 3:39 PM

Press Release (116th Congress): <https://williams.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-williams-introduces-bill-to-expand-telehealth-coverage-and-protect>

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